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Irish Republican Army formally ends 30-year armed struggle

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PNB net profit surges sixfold in first half, 3 years ahead of schedule

■ Metro / A21
First bamboo 'museum' opens in Las Piñas City

New York cardinal dedicates 1st church in US for Pinoys

THE "CHURCH of Filipinos," the first in the United States and only the second in the world dedicated as such, will be officially designated today in New York City, Church officials said yesterday.

Named the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, its adjoining hall will also be formally dedicated to the memory of the late Manila Archbishop

NEW YORK/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

President's media blitz leaves foreign press cold

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NO FEAR.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is unfazed by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines' (Focap) refusal to turn its

PRESIDENT'S/ A8

TAPANG NI ATE GLO.. SI BUNYE DUWAG!

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Saturday, July 30, 2005 ★★ ~~80~~ 72 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 232 P18
website: www.inq7.net

'Garci was there, too'

Isabela ex-governor denies he will testify

PDI PHOTO

FAUSTINO Dy Jr.

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

GARCI seemed to have been everywhere.

Based on an account given to the INQUIRER, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was also at the house of President Macapagal-Arroyo where directors of the Commission on Elections allegedly received P2 million each four days before last year's presidential election.

"It was Garcillano who shepherded the 14 directors to the President's home in La Vista subdivision [in Quezon City]. He called the shots," the source told the INQUIRER yesterday, quoting a witness whom he said he was close to.

"Garcillano is the key to all these," the source said, referring to the former Comelec commissioner who was allegedly involved in a conspiracy with Ms Arroyo to rig the results of the May 10, 2004 elections.

The source also said he preferred that the witness "tell everything" at the proper time.

Two INQUIRER sources refused to publicly identify who the "witness" was but the INQUIRER learned it was former Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., a member of a powerful political clan in Isabela province.

Dy, national chair of the Nationalist People's Coalition, lost to former radio broadcaster Ma. Gracia Cielo Padaca in his reelection bid last year in a blow to the prestige of the Dys' political dynasty.

A younger brother of Dy, Mayor Napoleon Dy of Alicia, Isabela, called the INQUIRER last night and said he had talked with his brother in California.

"He said, *'Kung ano man lahat yung mga balita, ay hindi totoo'* (Whatever those reports are,

GARCI/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

ARCHBISHOP Cruz

EDWIN BACASMAS

THE PRESIDENT assisted by her granddaughter Eva Victoria leads 300 children in the launch of the Bright Child campaign at the Palace. TV personality BJ "Tolits" Forbes (2nd from left) is named junior ambassador of goodwill. The campaign is part of Philhealth's program consisting of interventions on heath and nutrition and early education aimed at maximizing growth and development.

GMA ranks fourth most powerful woman in Forbes

IN WHAT MUST be a bit of good news after months of attacks and scandals, beleaguered President Macapal-Arroyo yesterday jumped five places to take No. 4 in the US-based Forbes magazine's list of the world's most powerful women.

Ms Arroyo ranked No. 9 last year in the magazine's global ranking of feminine clout which was topped for two straight years by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The annual list, unveiled yesterday, was Forbes' second ranking of the world's 100 most powerful women, and is based on a composite of visibility—measured by press citations—and economic impact.

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi was runner-up for the second year in a row, followed by newcomer Yulia Tymoshenko, the Ukranian prime minister, who debuted at No. 3.

Other prominent Asian women fared less well than Ms Arroyo, but Forbes said she "could soon be off" if she fails to survive impeachment proceeding brought against her amid allegations that she cheated in last year's presidential elections.

Former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, No. 8 on the list last year, not only lost her top 10 position but fell out of the rankings altogether following her failed re-election bid.

A similar fate befell India's ruling Congress party chief Sonia Gandhi, who was deemed the third most powerful woman in 2004 but could not make the top 100 a year later.

Interviewed by ABC 5 television, Ms Arroyo was shown to be visibly glad at the news, but she stress that "power should only be used to serve the country, especially in the Philippines that is divided into two nations."

Asked to explain the contrast between being the fourth most powerful woman in the world in the Forbes ranking and the most unpopular President in the history in local surveys, Ms Arroyo said: "The presidency is not a popularity contest because in order to fix things, we have to do things that are unpopular."

The Forbes list of the powerful reflects three things: status (a prime minister is more powerful than a senator), the size of the economic sphere over which the person holds sway and a multiplier that aims to make different economic yardsticks comparable.

A politician, for example, is as-

GMA RANKS/ A20

Bright child means less politics—GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

BRIGHT children today will grow up to become bright adults tomorrow, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo, which will hopefully lead to the country indulging less in politics in the future.

The President, who continues to reel from the worst political crisis to hit her 4-year-old administration, couldn't help but make this jibe in yesterday's launching of the Bright Child campaign at Malacañang.

Some 300 children participated in the launching of the program—part of the Philippine Health Insurance Program—a package of interventions on health and nutrition, early education and psycho-social programs aimed at ensuring the optimum growth and development of Filipino children aged 0 to 17 years.

The Chief Executive said the enrollment of eight million children in the insurance program would give poor families access to PhilHealth services.

In a speech, Ms Arroyo said she was happy that the Bright Child campaign was finally taking off, noting that she had been espousing for a long-term development plan for children since she was Vice President and Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

She underscored the need to provide children with the best education, best health care and other services.

BRIGHT/ A20

Gloria can stay on as PM, says professor

By Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's intention to serve out her term until 2010 was not an obstacle to the immediate establishment of a parliamentary and federal republic if her proposed amendments to the Constitution are carried out.

Ms Arroyo could very well serve as the first prime minister of a new parliament under a revised charter, said Dr. Jose Abueva, political science professor and foremost advocate of a parliamentary and federal system.

"Since she was elected to a six-year term, the ideal scenario would be to have the President serve out the latter half of her term both as the first prime minister or head of government and first president or ceremonial head," Abueva said in an interview.

The assumption is that the constitutional changes would already have been ratified in a plebiscite and elections have already been held by 2007, the halfway point of Ms Arroyo's six-year incumbency.

This scenario has been written about in his book, "Charter Change for Good Governance" that came out last April "before all the turmoil," said Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines and current president of the Kalayaan College.

"If the impeachment case exonerates her and her ruling coalition still gets the majority in the parliament, such a transition (with the President serving out her six-year term) would be more

GLORIA/ A4

Help wanted: More Palace spokespersons

NOT CONTENT with President Macapagal-Arroyo herself going on radio and television to defend herself, Malacañang plans to appoint more spokespersons to counter the barrage of criticisms against her, said Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao.

"The opposition goes full time against us. On our part, we really lack people who can speak for us," Tiglao told reporters.

Speaking at a forum in Ambassador Hotel, Tiglao cited the case of retired Army Gen. Fortunato Abat, one of those who had called on the President to resign. He said Abat could spend his whole day in a coffee shop and talk to the press, but spokespersons for the government did not have that luxury.

"You call us every day, but sometimes there is nobody who could talk to you," he said.

Tiglao did not say how many spokespersons the government planned to appoint.

But he said one problem the Palace was encountering was that it could not ask Cabinet secretaries to do some of the talking because they had their own departments and responsibilities to attend to.

He said even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had been speaking on behalf of the government despite his many duties.

When asked about the INQUIRER story reporting on a Palace plan to recruit lawyer Mike Toledo, a spokesperson during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada, Tiglao said this was not true as far

HELP/ A8

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

QUICKENING the pace of her media offensive, President Arroyo gives three interviews on Friday in three different broadcast stations within 24 hours, this one's over dzRH where she says the days of "people power" to change presidents are over.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon including Palawan will have occasional rains. Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/07/30/05

Second FRONT PAGE

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No stopping ARMM polls – Abalos

By Jerome Aning

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday rejected proposals to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao scheduled for Aug. 8, saying too much money, time and energy have already been spent.

"It's too late to postpone. So much expenses have been incurred. Candidates have been exposed and voters have been waiting," Abalos told reporters.

The Comelec has allocated P299 million for the political exercise.

On Aug. 8, some two million ARMM voters would troop to polling places to elect a governor, a vice governor and members of the regional assembly. ARMM covers Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

On Thursday, the National Movement for Free Elections urged lawmakers to postpone the ARMM elections.

Namfrel Chair Jose Concepcion Jr. and legal counsel Jose Bernas said the election watchdog is endorsing a pending House bill urging the President and Comelec to postpone the elections.

They said no less than the speaker of the ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly, Hatamil Hassan, informed them that majority of the assemblymen support the postponement.

During the recent ARMM Business Council meeting in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, Namfrel said ARMM officials, election candidates, businessmen, academicians and non-government organizations favored a postponement "to ensure that necessary safeguards for the conduct of clean elections were in place."

ABALOS

CONCEPCION

They were particularly concerned about the voters' list which they considered to be padded by over 100,000.

Namfrel, students from the Mindanao State University campuses, and volunteers from NGOs and Muslim and Christian groups, want to clean up the voters lists in the ARMM with Comelec's assistance and supervision, to remove any doubt about the conduct of the elections.

The conference participants also pointed out that only three out of the 114 regional candidates have committed to uphold clean and honest election in the region.

They added that a credible and peaceful election was needed to convince rich Muslim states in the Middle East to support ARMM development.

Meanwhile, the Suara Bangsamoro party-list group has joined calls for the postponement of the ARMM elections, citing the public's waning trust on President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Comelec.

The group said that Moro groups and individuals are wary and apprehensive that no clean and honest election will come out of the ARMM under the incumbent Arroyo administration.

The group added that the ARMM elections would be an exercise in futility since Ms Arroyo has already backed moves to change the system of government to federal and parliamentary.

"What is the use therefore of the ARMM election if the Arroyo administration will execute constitutional changes in the government in the coming months and years," Suara Bangsamoro vice chair Amirah Ali Lidasan said.

Suara Bangsamoro, along with Anak Mindanao, earlier asked the Supreme Court to stop the elections from being held. The high tribunal has yet to rule on their plea.

The group doubted whether the elections would be fair at all since the Arroyo administration's hand in the election is "very transparent," from the choice of administration candidate for the ARMM governorship, to the disposition of Comelec commissioners in the national and regional level, the army and the police institutions who, Lidasan said, were all suspects in election rigging last year.

Lidasan claimed Malacañang was intent on ensuring the victory of administration candidate Zaldy Ampatuan, whose governor-father allegedly delivered the biggest margin of votes for Ms Arroyo in Maguindanao in last year's election.

Nine days before the election, the ARMM remains peaceful, regional director Sukarno Ikbala said yesterday.

"Situation here is not as tense as what others believe," he said.

The regional police will deploy more than 5,000 policemen and put up more than 100 checkpoints all over the region as the campaign period starts on Tuesday.

The police do expect any serious threats from armed groups in the region.

He said eight candidates are running for governor while nine candidates are running for vice governor. *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

GMA open to reconciliation with people who want her to quit

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo last night said she was open to reconciliation with people who had called for her to step down.

"I am always open to that kind of thing (reconciliation), Ms Arroyo said in an interview with ABC 5 news when asked if she was willing to take the lead in reconciling with her opponents like Susan Roces, widow of Fernando Poe Jr., who ran for President in 2004.

"*Kung meron akong sense na tatanggapin ako, handa akong manguna kasi talagang kailangan ng ating bansa ay pagkakaisa at hindi yong watak-watak* (If I sense that they will accept me, I am prepared to take the lead in reconciling with them because the country needs us to unite and not be divided)," she said.

The President lamented that the problem in the country today was politics, which she said, was "dragging down the country."

Asked about her strained ties with former President Corazon Aquino, Ms Arroyo said she was saddened that the former president had called for her resignation.

"But as I told her that night, I will continue to be President and I will not resign because it should not be the case that every time people do not like its leader, he should resign," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said if Ms Aquino wanted to talk to her, communication lines remained open.

The Chief Executive once again called for national harmony and for "healing the wounds of Edsa 1, 2 and 3."

Ms Aquino was part of Edsa 1 and 2, Ms Arroyo said.

"*Kaya parating bukas ang aking puso sa harmony at* reconciliation (My heart is always open to harmony and reconciliation)," she added.

Asked to comment on criticisms made by her former Cabinet secretaries who said that her Charter change bid was a smokescreen for the real issues, the President maintained that the group known as the "Hyatt 10" knew long before that her administration was heading toward Charter change.

"They were with me during the presidential campaign in 2004 and they helped me in making my state of the nation address in 2004 where I said that Charter change would be tackled next year (2005)," Ms Arroyo said.

"*Kasama sila doon (They were with me then)*," she said.

CA upholds dismissal order vs Pleyto

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT of Appeals has upheld the order of the Office of the Ombudsman dismissing Public Works Undersecretary Salvador A. Pleyto from public service for alleged unexplained wealth.

In an 11-page decision, the CA also ordered the lifting of the writ of preliminary injunction it earlier issued – upon Pleyto's request – stopping the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) from implementing the Ombudsman's June 28, 2004 dismissal order.

In a decision penned by CA 10th Division Associate Justice Mario L. Guarina, the CA also denied Pleyto's request that he be allowed to "correct his Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net worth (SALN) before he should be held administratively liable."

Pleyto made the request after Ombudsman and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) investigators found that Pleyto not only failed to explain his alleged P16.6 million ill-gotten wealth, but also did not declare them in his SALN.

In denying Pleyto's petition, the CA concurred with the Ombudsman saying that allowing Pleyto to correct his SALN "would be a mockery of the law" because SALN is not a "misdeclare-first-and correct-if-caught instrument, but a full and solemn recording under oath of all the items required to be reported."

"To repeat, the administrative liabilities of the petitioner proven by substantial evidence is his failure to file a truthful and accurate SALN and possession of assets manifestly out of proportion of his legitimate income. Either one is a legal basis for dismissal or removal from service," the CA said.

The CA said Pleyto is liable for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Pleyto yesterday said he would appeal the CA decision.

And should the CA dismiss his motion, Pleyto said he will take the case to the Supreme Court.

"That's the Court of Appeals. There is still a higher court after that, the Supreme Court. I will go there if needed," he said. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

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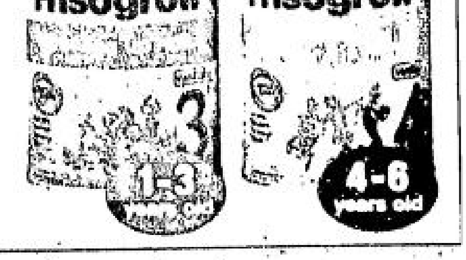
Frisogrow
3
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Frisogrow
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years old

GMA: It's not because I want to be PM

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday doused speculations that she was pushing for Charter change and a shift to a parliamentary system because she wanted to stay in power longer as the country's first prime minister.

"It's not because I want to be a prime minister, it's just that the system has deteriorated very much," said Ms Arroyo in Cebuano in an interview with dzRH radio.

Her comment served to clarify an ambiguous statement she made in an interview with GMA 7 television on Thursday night.

"Whether I will run or not (for prime minister) is not important, we still have to push through with the change in the Constitution," the President said.

In the same TV interview, the President indicated that she intended to serve out her mandate up to 2010 amid demands that she cut short her term if Congress moves to shift to a parliamentary system within the next five years.

The President was asked why she seemed to be pushing for Charter change now, as if she was forced to do so only because her presidency was on the brink of disintegrating from the growing calls for her to resign.

Speculations that the President wanted to extend her stay in government was fueled by her key ally, former President Ramos, who suggested that the President run for prime minister if a new Constitution effecting a shift to a parliament system were to be ratified.

The President insisted that long before her most serious political crisis erupted, she was already strongly pushing for constitutional reform, citing her State of the Nation Address last year.

She noted that during the 2004 presidential campaign, a lot of people from Mindanao agreed with one of her campaign promises to push for federalism to give the regions more autonomy.

This is why there is no truth to the claim that she is pushing for Charter change to stymie the opposition's bid to impeach her, she said.

In the dzRH interview, the President referred obliquely to the crisis hounding her presidency, but only in relation to the political system that she wants to change.

Asked whether the economy would take the brunt if the country goes ahead with the tedious job of amending the 1987 Constitution, she said: "If we don't respond to this, the situation would deteriorate."

"Imagine, if president after president would be destroyed by trial by publicity, thrown out of office ... impeached ... and brought down by people power if one or two sectors did not like them," she said.

"Imagine, because our electoral system is so chaotic, [politicians and candidates] would have to call Comelec all the time for information," she added in Filipino.

The President has admitted having called an election official during the counting of votes in the 2004 election and apologized for that "lapse in judgment."

Her wiretapped phone conversation with the election official as well as accusations of bribery against her close relatives sparked the current political crisis.

The President said the present system allowed for the emergence of "false witnesses."

She lamented that some people tended to talk without impunity and their allegations were not being examined for their probative value.

"This is not the fault of a person but the system has deteriorated over the years and we are seeing the results, that even a President is being taken advantage of," Ms Arroyo said.

She denied that she was involved in illegal gambling payoffs in reaction to a new witness' claim that he saw the wife of alleged "jueteng" operator Rodolfo Pineda distributing P2 million each to election officials in the presence of the President.

"Nobody gave bribes in my presence, that's all I can say," Ms Arroyo said.

She said she would not say anything more on the matter as she had been advised by her lawyers not to comment on the accusations against her.

The President also defended the North Rail project as being good as the country was able to get favorable terms from China, contrary to what some politicians were saying.

"That's what I've been saying, the problem is it's the political system that is dragging down our economy," she said in Filipino.

With a report from Christine Avendaño

Gloria can stay on as PM, says professor

From page A1

logical," he said.

Noli ceremonial veep

Abueva said Vice President Noli de Castro could also stay on as "ceremonial vice president" who would still have certain functions in the parliamentary government in transition.

"He can't be deputy prime minister. That (position) would already have to be elected by the parliament," he said.

Abueva has put forward a second scenario under which Ms Arroyo agrees to serve out her mandate only as a ceremonial head of state and allows parliament to elect the new prime minister.

However, the members of the proposed consultative commission on constitutional change would still have to deliberate on the transitory provisions for the shift to a parliamentary system, he said.

Abueva made clear that what he was proposing were only scenarios and his personal ideas.

"Some people might say I'm doing a Ramos and am pushing for this and that. I'm not a politician. I'm only a scholar," he said.

Not laws but people

In Iloilo City, the incoming president of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines questioned the President's call for constitutional amendments to pave the way for changes in the political system.

"We doubt whether Cha-cha at this time will solve our country's serious problems on poverty, education, ecology, graft and corruption, the problems of credibility, honesty and integrity in governance," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo in a statement.

But Lagdameo said it is not laws that the country lacks "but people with sincerity, accountability and transparency in governance."

Lagdameo said Ms Arroyo's call for decentralization of power "has been made time and again by other presidents before her. I hope that the movement will not simply be from Sona to Sona, but will truly be from Sona to determined and focused action. Go ahead; it's late already!"

'Federal added tax'

In Congress, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano warned governors and mayors supporting Charter change that their constituents would be facing more taxes in a parliamentary-federal system.

"If the federal states will keep the bulk of their taxes as they propose, who will pay the nation's P6 trillion debt? So the federal government is likely to impose another tax to service local and foreign debt," Cayetano told a press conference.

Cayetano called it the "federal added tax," or the FAT, alluding to the unpopular expanded value-added tax which was passed by Congress but temporarily stopped by the Supreme Court.

He said Malacañang would again poise the bogey of economic crisis and "potential disintegration of the federated states" to push for the FAT.

He warned the local government executives who gave Ms Arroyo five standing ovations during her State of the Nation Address not to be "easily swayed by her tricks."

"In the short term, GMA will be the one who will immensely benefit from this. She knew that Cha-cha is dead on arrival in the Senate. But she and Malacañang officials want to abort the fetus of impeachment. That's why they created this issue to abort the impeachment fetus before it reaches the Senate and take a life of its own," said Cayetano.

A question of timing

"I'm not saying that the flaws of the federal system will not be cured. Having a federal government is good. But the question is the timing. We must seriously study this through unemotional debates," he said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

ALLiance
Prog

AND SO ON with the protests. Members of the Alliance of Progressive Labor hold a lightning rally near the Don Chino Roces bridge to ask the President to resign and shoot down her initiative to amend the Constitution. LYN RILLON

CHARTER CHANGE

Zubiri changes tack, says Senate can stay

By Philip C. Tubeza

WILL carrot-and-stick diplomacy convince the Senate to do the Cha-cha?

From warning senators of a political backlash if they continued to oppose Charter change, administration Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri yesterday switched tactics and tried to allay the senators' fears by proposing a post-Cha-cha scenario in which the Senate as an institution would stay.

Zubiri, a leading Cha-cha proponent and lead convener of the Movement for a Federal Philippines (MFP), said the Senate could be retained if a constituent assembly to were to choose a presidential-federal system of government.

"We don't have to lose the Senate. The Senate could be retained with the argument that it would be elected by regions," Zubiri said at a press forum at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City.

Many senators oppose President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal for a unicameral federal-parliamentary form of government since it would abolish the Senate and cut short their terms. Some also have ambitions to run for President or Vice President in the 2010 elections.

But Zubiri said many Cha-cha supporters were willing to stick to the presidential form of government as long as power was devolved from the capital through a federal system.

He said that a federal Senate could have two representatives from each of the country's 16 regions to ensure that every region would be represented.

He noted that in the present Senate, which is elected nationally, most of the members come from Luzon and not enough from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Out of the 24 senators, 18 come from Luzon, four from the Visayas, and only one—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—is from Mindanao.

Zubiri said that the House was prepared to convene a 10-member delegation to talk to the senators about Cha-cha.

"We should communicate. They should not shut us out outright. Our movement is here to educate, not to harass or make demands. We want to educate the [illegible] of changing our politic[illegible]

Zubiri also pointed out that the senators would not be outvoted if the House and the Senate convened as a constituent assembly since the two bodies would be voting separately on each proposed constitutional amendment.

But while trying to assuage the senators' fears, Zubiri reiterated his warning that local officials might dump the senators in the 2007 elections if they continue to oppose Cha-cha.

"Definitely in Bukidnon, they would not be welcomed. Bukidnon is a center of the movement for federalism," he said.

Zubiri said the MFP would seek an audience with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and other religious groups to try to enlist their support for Cha-cha. He added that they would also hold talks with nongovernmental organizations, students and other groups, about the benefits of federalism.

A ranking administration legislator meanwhile called on Congress to hold a plebiscite so the impasse between the Senate and the House on the issue of charter change can be decided once and for all.

Lakas-CMD Rep. Herminio Teves said Congress should pass a resolution for a plebiscite on Cha-cha to be held simultaneously with the Oct. 24, 2005 barangay elections to secure a clear mandate from the people on the issue of amending the Constitution.

"Precious time should not be wasted in this gridlock, and now is the best time to pursue the option of conducting a plebiscite simultaneous with the (barangay elections)," he said.

Teves said the plebiscite will settle the major controversies, particularly the question of whether to amend the Constitution through constituent assembly or constitutional convention.

"The people's mandate is the best guide of the legislators or delegates to the constitutional convention on rewriting a new Constitution," Teves said.

Corrections

IN THE July 29 issue, front page graphics-Profile of RP Political Map-the province of Oriental Mindoro, colored yellow to signify neutrality, should have been colored green since its governor, Arnan Panaligan supports GMA.

In the same issue, the table on Page 21—List of Governors and their Stand—wrongly identified the Sulu governor. He is Benjamin Loong-not Yusop Jikiri.

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Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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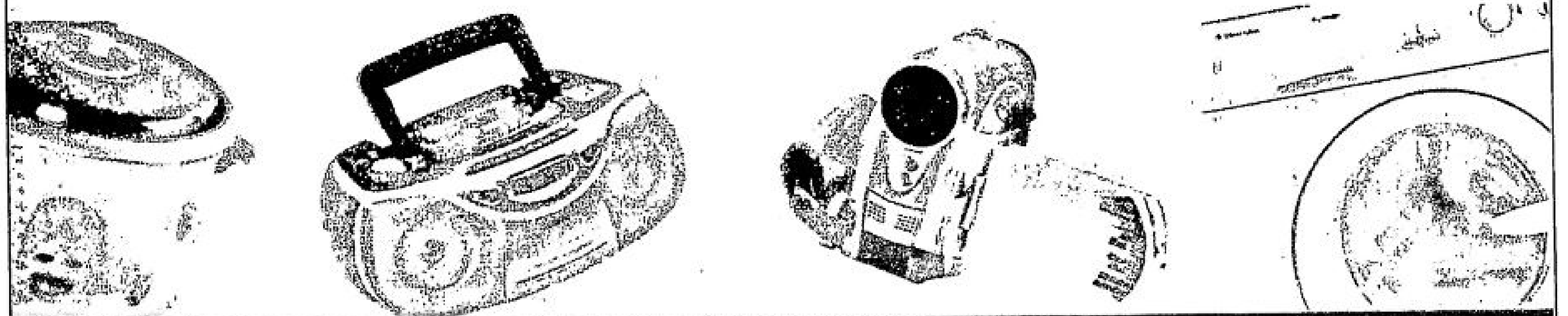

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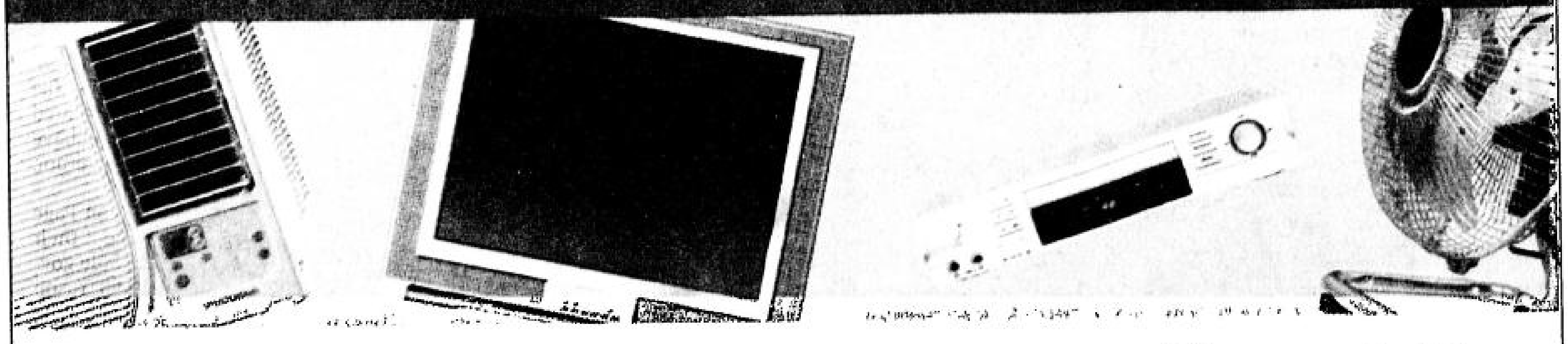

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House minority wants Erap rules

'What is good for Erap is good for Gloria' – Escudero

By Michael Lim Ubac

"WHAT is good for Erap is good for Gloria."

Thus said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero who proposed yesterday the adoption of the impeachment rules used against former President Joseph Estrada to end the protracted debates on the proposed rules of impeachment.

"On Monday, I will make a manifestation that the House should adopt the old impeachment rules. This will be fair to all concerned," said Escudero at a press conference in Quezon City.

Escudero said both the majority and minority blocs in the House of Representatives should promptly drop the plenary debates to expedite the process.

Faced with the threat of a prolonged delay if lawmakers seek the intervention of the Supreme Court next week to untangle the legal mess, Escudero challenged the House to adopt the rules used in the last Congress to impeach Estrada.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said he's not against adopting the 12th Congress rules so the justice committee can begin its hearings.

Escudero said that rules during the 12th Congress were not vague.

"No, there's not much difference. We will endorse the old rules if there's an understanding that we can present evidence (before the justice committee)."

Escudero's gambit is anchored on the position that a creeping impeachment, or gradual collation of signatures, and a full-dress hearing by the justice committee are allowed by the old rules in accordance with the Constitution.

This means that once the 79 signatures are met, the Articles of Impeachment will automatically be transmitted to the Senate for trial and the justice committee will forthwith end its investigations.

ESCUDERO

Escudero said the minority was even willing to cut down the presentation of evidence to only one of the three impeachment grounds-culpable violations of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and bribery and graft and corruption.

"And we can prove – by citing only one ground – that she should be impeached by the House, and eventually removed from office by the Senate," said Escudero.

Administration Rep. Edcel Lagman, main proponent of the proposed rules, laid down the majority position during floor debates on Tuesday and Wednesday that rules governing impeachment proceedings from the 8th to the 12th Congresses were substantially the same, particularly on the prohibition of the creeping impeachment.

"It cannot be done because it's not sanctioned under the spirit and phraseology of the Constitution (and by) congressional precedents with respect to impeachment proceedings," said Lagman.

He explained that the vote of a third of the House "should be present at the time (of the filing or during the) initiatory pleading," otherwise committee hearings would have to be completed and the complainants would have to wait for plenary action before any transmittal could be done.

Since the minority only affixed 42 signatures to the Oliver Lozano amended complaint on July 25, the one-third vote "would not come into play at any time" during the committee hearings, he said.

Lagman insisted that the 12th Congress violated the Constitution when the impeachment case against Estrada was directly transmitted to the Senate soon after the required signatures were met.

"The 'creeping' campaign for signatures or collation by installment ... cannot subsequently divest the committee on justice of its jurisdiction to conduct a hearing," said Lagman, adding that "nowhere in the Constitution is this 'creeping' strategy allowed."

Escudero, however, wondered why the majority which have belittled the minority's capability to gather enough signatures are afraid of a creeping impeachment.

On Monday, Escudero said he would also question the glaring omission of the word, "presentation," from the draft rules being debated in plenary.

"Now, what they want is that the determination of form and substance should be based on the four corners of the complaint. Meaning, you can't present evidence which were not alleged in the complaint."

But he said the US Congress had no rules on impeachment.

"If you have a complaint, present your evidence," said Escudero, noting that the usual rules of procedures were the only ones being followed.

Palace names graft-buster to PCGG post

By Alcuin Papa

A WELL-TRAINED graft-buster and bureaucrat has completed the lineup of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

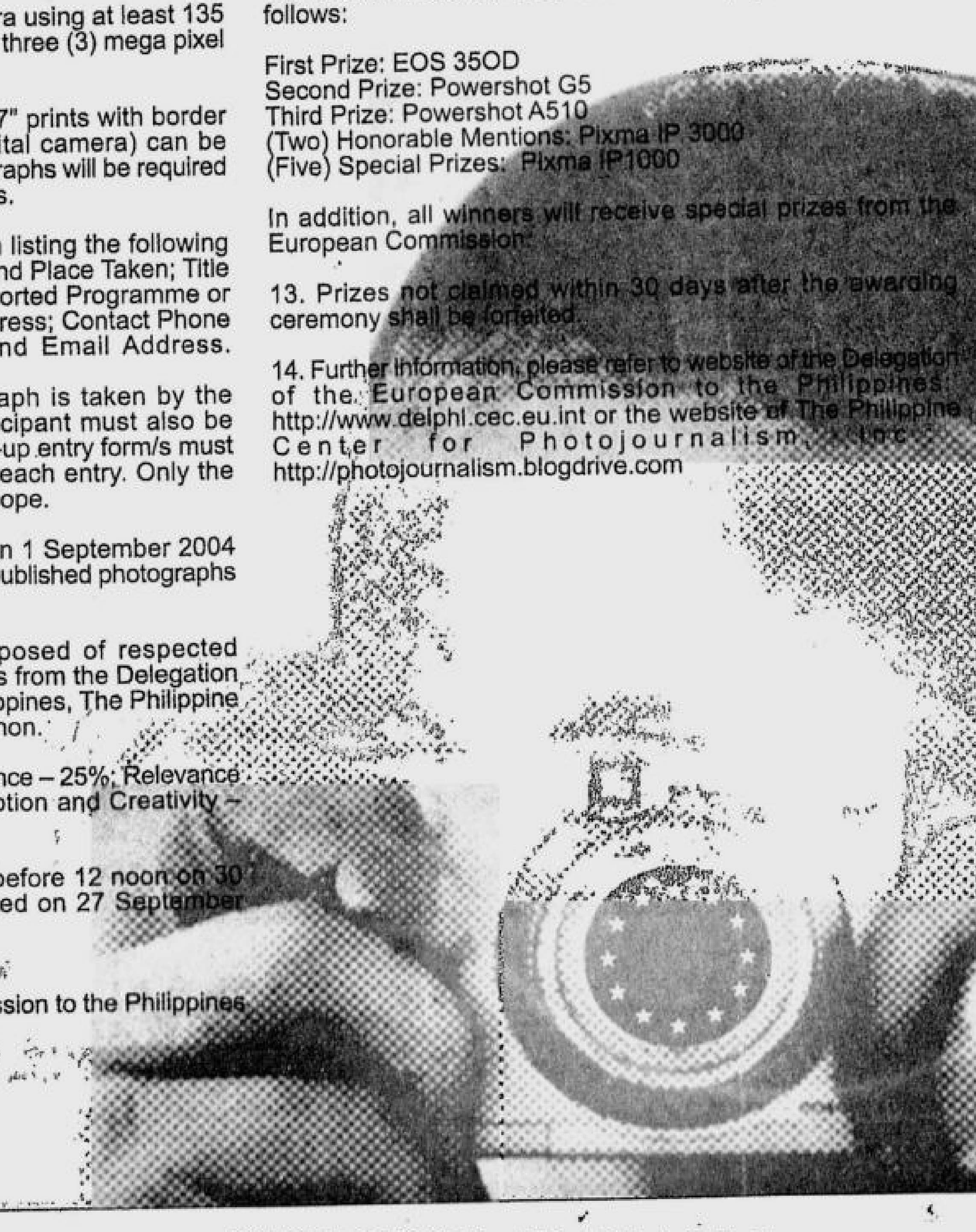
In an order signed on July 20, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed lawyer Nicasio Conti to the agency, bringing to five the number of PCGG commissioners.

Conti took his oath of office yesterday before Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita at Malacañang's Premier Guest House.

Before his appointment, Conti was with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. He was also a former member of the Philippine technical working groups of the United Nations' Convention Against Corruption, the House of Representatives' Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulations working on anti-red tape bills, and the Department of Trade and Industry group addressing investors' concerns.

Last July 3, Malacañang appointed Alvin Dans and lawyer Ricardo Abcede to replace former PCGG Commissioners Vyva Victoria Aguirre and Ruben Carranza. Conti, Dans and Abcede will join PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso and Chair Camilo Sabio.

The PCGG is the lead agency tasked to recover ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies. It was formed shortly after the 1986 People Power Revolution.



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3. Entries should be taken with any camera using at least 135 mm film and/or digital camera with at least three (3) mega pixel sizes.

4. A maximum of ten (10) entries in 5" x 7" prints with border (whether taken with 135 mm film or digital camera) can be submitted by a participant. Winning photographs will be required to submit negatives and/or raw digital files.

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6. Photographs should be taken between 1 September 2004 to 30 September 2005. Published and unpublished photographs maybe submitted to the competition.

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11. Awarding of prizes will coincide with the opening of the exhibit of winning and outstanding entries on 19 October 2005 at The Podium, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

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13. Prizes not claimed within 30 days after the awarding ceremony shall be forfeited.

14. Further information, please refer to website of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines http://www.delphi.cec.eu.int or the website of The Philippine Center for Photojournalism, Inc. http://photojournalism.blogdrive.com

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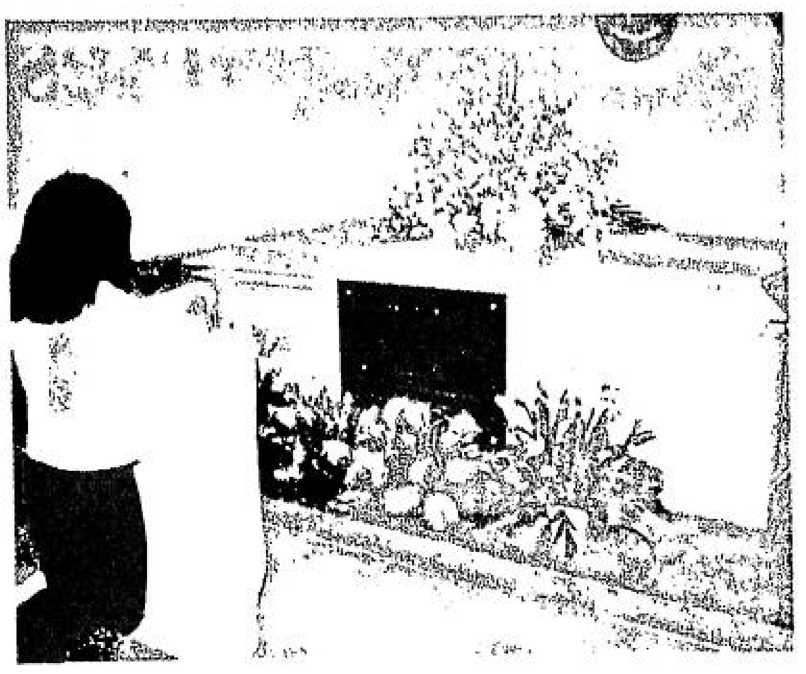


CARDINAL SIN'S TOMB A visitor prays at the tomb of Jaime L. Cardinal Sin at the crypt of the Manila Cathedral. A Mass to mark the 40th day of his death will be celebrated at the cathedral today, July 30, at 7:30 a.m. The late cardinal was widely looked up to as a prophet and patriot because of the stands he took to protect the faith and democracy.

PHOTO BY NOLI I. YAMSUAN

Days of 'people power' revolts are over, says GMA

THE DAYS of "people power" uprisings to remove Philippine leaders are over, scandal-plagued President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday, reiterating that only a shift to a parliamentary system can stop the country's democracy from sliding into anarchy.

In a third day of interviews with local media, Arroyo – facing impeachment – lamented being subjected to trial by media over charges that she rigged last year's election and that her family took bribes.

"If we do not address this finally, our politics will deteriorate," she told dzRH radio. "Imagine if we have president after president being toppled, president after president being tried by publicity, president after president being impeached."

In her State of the Nation Address on Monday, Ms Arroyo signaled the start of "the great debate on charter change" to shift to a parliamentary system. Such a move would fuse the legislative and executive branches of government and help stop gridlocks caused by quarrels between the President and the US-style bicameral Congress, Ms Arroyo said.

"While Myanmar is trying to strengthen its democracy, our democracy is weakening and turning into anarchy," she said. "We have to strengthen our democracy. In the past it was said that something is wrong with the system. But now it has become so wrong that the system itself is wrong."

Ms Arroyo is embroiled in her worst political crisis since taking power after massive protests ousted President Joseph Estrada in 2001. In 1986, a "people power" revolt toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

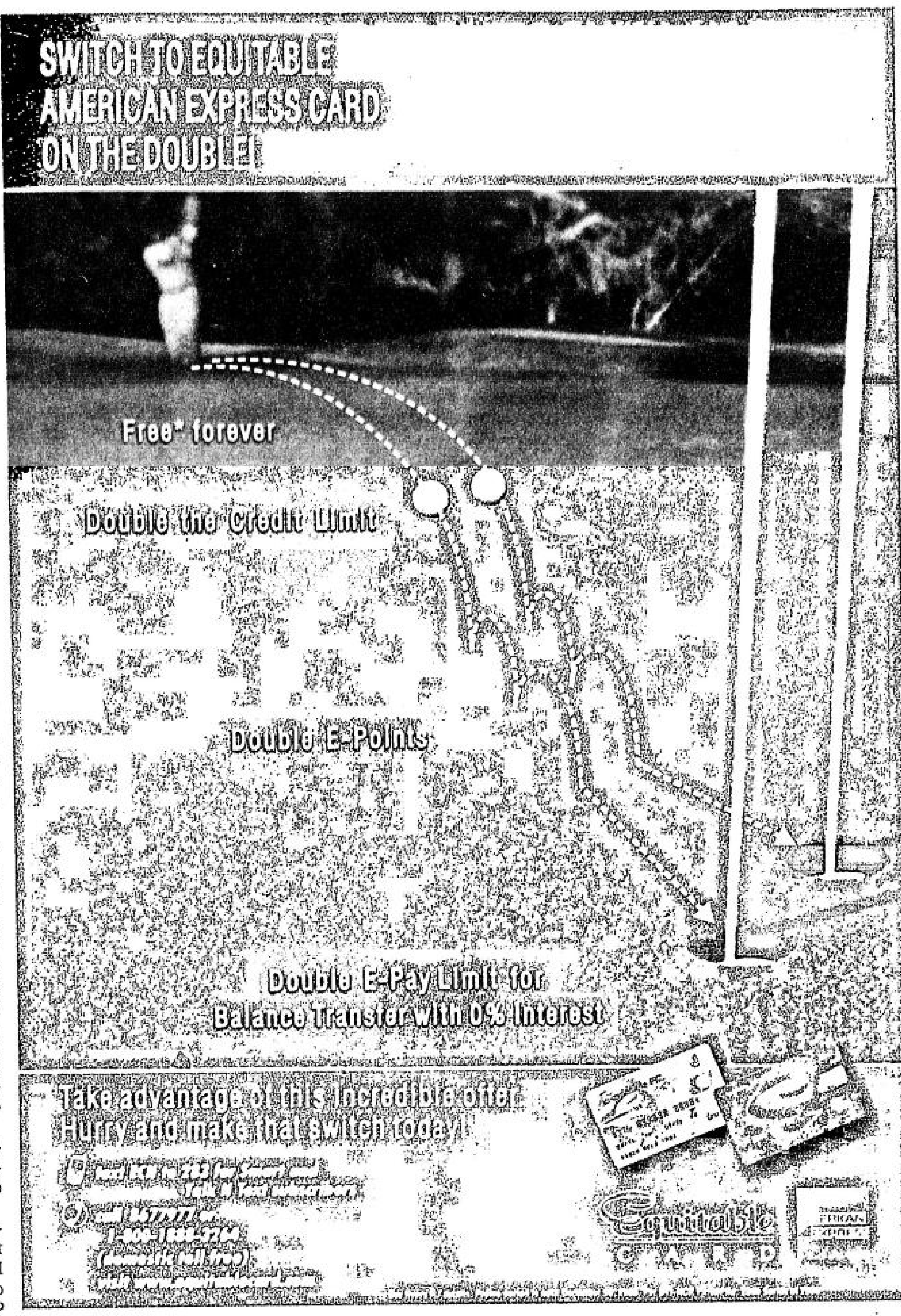
She has apologized for speaking to an election official before she was declared the winner of the May 2004 ballot, but denied manipulating the count. She said she's ready to face an impeachment trial.

Some members of her own Cabinet, business groups, activist organizations, the political opposition and ex-President Corazon Aquino, a former ally, have demanded her resignation. Tens of thousands have joined street protests, but the crowds have only been a fraction of the size of those in 1986 and 2001.

Opposition lawmakers on Monday filed an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo for allegedly violating the Constitution, betraying public trust, corruption and bribery. They urged her to resign to avoid a painful Senate trial, claiming they have plenty of witnesses and piles of documentary evidence to bring her down.

Ms Arroyo only touched on the latest allegations against her: that regional election officials received P2 million pesos in bribes to rig the polls, in her presence in a hotel room.

"No one has given any bribe in my presence, that's all I can say," she said. "But enough said because I am an accused and I should heed the advice of my lawyers not to speak about the charges against me." *AP*



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New York cardinal dedicates 1st church in US for Pinoys

From page A1

Jaime Cardinal Sin, and named after him.

NY cardinal's choice

Fr. Erno Diaz, coordinator of the Filipino Apostolate in the Archdiocese of New York, said the Chapel, located at 378 Broome St. in Lower Manhattan, will now be named "San Lorenzo Ruiz Church" following its designation on June 15, 2005 as the official "Church of Filipinos" by Archdiocese of New York Edward Cardinal Egan.

Cardinal Egan also appointed Diaz as Director of the Filipino Apostolate, with a three-year term starting Sept. 1, 2005.

"We thank the Almighty for the historic gift of this church that services the tri-state Eastern seaboard population of about 300,000 Filipinos. It is the first church in the United States to be officially designated as 'Church of Filipinos' and second in the world, the first being the Filipino Church in Rome," Diaz said.

GMA invited

He said since President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to grace the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York for a meeting of heads of state on the UN Millennium Development Goals, the Chief Executive was invited to preside over the official designation of the Church of Filipinos and the dedication of the Cardinal Sin Memorial Hall.

40th day

As the occasion coincides with the 40th day of the passing of Cardinal Sin, Fr. Diaz said a special requiem memorial Mass will be held at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in honor of the revered cardinal who, according to Diaz, was "very close to our parish, the Most Holy Crucifix."

Remembering Sin

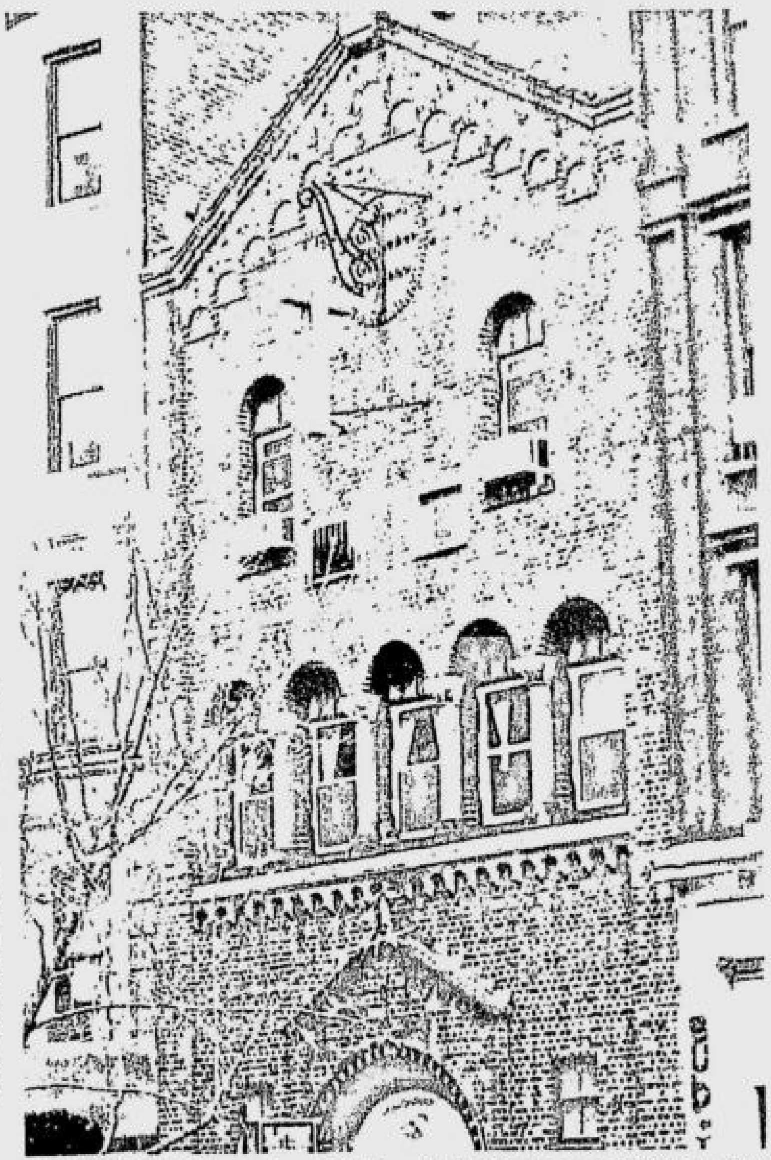
"It was here in 1984 that the cardinal [Sin] came to rally support for the canonization of then Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz. Two years before Edsa I, he already manifested a clear sign that he was going to lead the people in Edsa. He said Mass in a jampacked St. Patrick's Cathedral and from the pulpit, he led the people in singing "Pilipinas Kong Mahal," which moved many of us to tears," Diaz said.

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Executive Director Cecile Guidote Alvarez, who met with Diaz during his recent Manila visit, said the Cardinal Sin Memorial Hall could be a center for culture and values education outreach for Filipinos abroad, especially in New York and New Jersey.

Cultural link

"Through this new Filipino church, the NCCA hopes to create a cultural link with Filipino communities overseas and touch base with them and their children, reminding them and teaching them of the rich cultural heritage of their motherland, also in line with the NCCA's effort to provide Kalahi Cultural Services overseas," she stressed.

For more information about this historic event, Diaz may be reached at Area Code 212 8366411 or at ernodiaz@aol.com.



THE FILIPINOS' own church in New York City is named after the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz and features a memorial hall named after Jaime Cardinal Sin.

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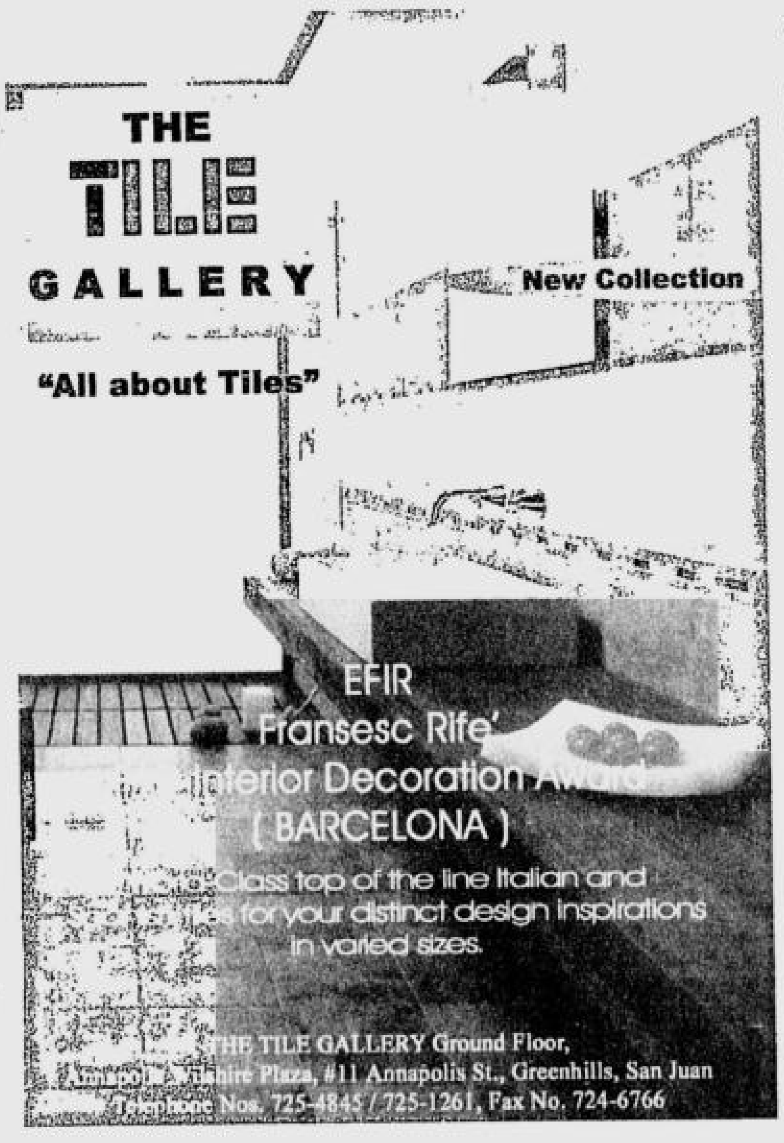

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Help wanted: More Palace spokespersons

From page A1

as he knew, but added that he might be wrong.

Toledo himself earlier told the INQUIRER that he was offered the job by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. But he said it was not clear whether he would replace Bunye or would just be working with him.

Tiglao also said he did not think Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was on his way out.

Bunye received his own share of criticism last month when he backtracked on his statement that it was Ms Arroyo's voice on the controversial wiretapped phone conversations that he played to the press. Critics alleged the conversations were about election fraud. *With reports from AFP and Leila B. Salaverria*

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Over dzRH: Existing political system weakening government

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reiterated her warning that the existing political system had weakened the government and was leading to "anarchy."

Urging a change from the current presidential system and bicameral Congress, she said: "In the parliamentary, there is fusion, [executive and legislative] are one body so there is only one direction."

In a free-ranging interview on dzRH, Ms Arroyo brushed aside accusations that her Charter change proposal was intended to divert attention from the political crisis, saying debate on the Constitution was "more constructive than the political noise emanating from the media-lynching and trial by publicity" against her.

She cited congressional investigations into allegations of her election cheating and links to illegal gambling, calling it "this system of false witnesses, who can talk with impunity, no examination of their probative value."

"This has deteriorated over the years so that even the rights of the president are not respected," she said.

Ms Arroyo denied the opposition allegations.

It was the latest in a series of media appearances Ms Arroyo had given since she snapped out of her seclusion from media on Wednesday and held her first press conference in nearly two months.

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President's media blitz ...

From page A1

courtesy call at the Palace into a press conference today. Ms Arroyo is determined to show she is not afraid to face the press and answer probing questions.

After stumbling at the start of her media image-building blitz Tuesday, Ms Arroyo quickly picked up the pace yesterday by holding three interviews in three broadcast stations in 24 hours.

The President gave an exclusive, 10-minute interview with GMA 7 from her study in Malacañang at 6:30 p.m. Thursday night. She followed this up yesterday with a 45-minute interview with dzRH radio at 8 a.m. and another interview with ABC 5 news at 6:30 p.m. *(See related story on this page.)*

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told dzMM radio that the President had agreed to meet with reporters covering Malacañang at least once a month.

Shooing away newsmen

Bunye had come under sharp criticism for boorishly shooing away journalists and a crew of foreign news organizations at Wednesday's much maligned press conference during which the presidential spokesperson personally handpicked reporters who could grill the President based on pre-screened questions submitted the day before.

Ms Arroyo had apologized to both Focap and the Malacañang Press Corps but chose to stand by Bunye's decision.

Focap president Carl Wilson said the group's members had received Bunye's apology for what he termed as a "poorly managed" press conference. "But are all members happy with that (apology)? I don't know," Wilson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Wilson said Focap board members decided to meet the President in a courtesy call they had requested a month ago and scheduled today at 2 p.m. Bunye offered—at the last minute—to turn the meeting into a press conference with some caveat: only board members would be allowed to attend, only tape recorders would be permitted, and the entire meeting would be filmed by the Palace in-house video crew.

Focap declined Bunye's offer of a press conference because, Wilson said, "our members felt it was better to forgo that when all correspondents can meet with the President."

Iron out kinks

Bunye promised to iron out kinks with Malacañang reporters, most of whom complained that Wednesday's press conference had been manipulated to make it look like all media present in the meeting had an opportunity to ask questions submitted the day before.

Owing to the President's tight schedule, only 25 minutes were allotted for question and answer, Bunye explained, so he decided to handpick the questioners—limiting the number to 10.

The press secretary, however, could not explain how the President had no time to meet the entire local media for the first time in six weeks when she lingered for at least 10 minutes after the press conference for a photo session.

'Conspiracy'

In an interview with ANC, Vergel Santos, chair of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, condemned what he called a "conspiracy" to manipulate the press conference.

"It was clear enough to me [that] they (reporters) were used, I don't know why it wasn't clear to others. It was clear they were friendly media because they only asked friendly questions. In fact, they weren't questions, they were cues, there was nothing to be gained in the press con except if you went beyond the press con itself and if you saw the tendency, the dangerous tendency of this President, this very insecure President. Danger lies in this presidency if it is not going to be fair to media."

Don't air gripes in media, AFP warns disgruntled soldiers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY yesterday warned disgruntled soldiers against running to the media to air their complaints amid persistent coup rumors linked to an ongoing political crisis.

In a statement, AFP Civil Relations chief and spokesman Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado acknowledged "dissatisfaction" in the military ranks.

But, he said, the media is not the proper forum for their grievances.

"Like any other organization, the AFP is not immune from feelings of discontent and dissatisfaction from within its ranks," Honrado said.

"The AFP leadership encourages all its members, both officers and enlisted personnel, to air their concerns in the proper forum, which is the AFP grievance system," he continued.

Honrado said the AFP has its own way to resolve "internal issues."

Lately some reporters have received statements supposedly from junior officers who have formed themselves into the Young Officers' Union of the new generation (YOUng).

They enumerated several gripes in the military system and joined calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation for allegedly having cheated in the elections.

Another shadowy group calling itself the "Protectors of the Filipino People" has also emerged, calling for the President's ouster.

The AFP has dismissed these statements as fake, saying these were not issued by junior officers.

On Tuesday Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, head of the AFP Counter-Intelligence Group (AFPCIG), also admitted some "dissatisfaction" in the military.

But he said another mutiny at this time was "remote and impossible."

The AFP also appealed to retired officers who have joined calls for the President's ouster to support the military.

"The AFP is also appealing to all military elders to support the military organization and the current AFP leadership," Honrado said.

The AFP has previously lambasted retired officers critical of the President, like former Army chief retired Gen. Fortunato Abat.

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RP pulls out diplomatic staff from war-torn Iraq to Jordan

By Volt C. Contreras

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has pulled out all Filipino diplomats from war-torn Iraq amid an escalating insurgency and following the release of hostage Robert Tarongoy.

The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad is now manned by longtime Iraqi employees but remains linked via phone and e-mail to the DFA and the Filipino diplomatic post in neighboring Jordan.

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque yesterday disclosed that since Tarongoy's homecoming on June 23, Philippine officials led by Charge D'Affaires Ricardo Endaya have been withdrawn from Iraq and moved to the embassy in Amman.

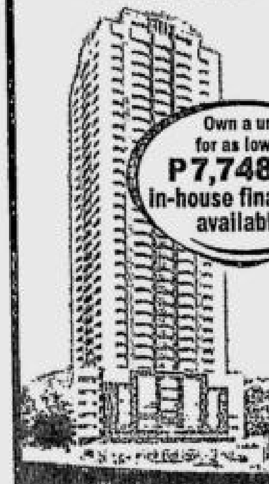
Asuque said the pullout was a precaution against the raging violence in the Iraq, where insurgents had recently killed the ambassador from Egypt and two Algerian diplomats, and wounded another diplomat from Bahrain.

"The embassy has an obligation to protect our diplomats, but it remains physically open and continues to entertain calls," he told reporters.

Unfazed by the kidnapping of Tarongoy and truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, an estimated 7,000 Filipinos are working in Iraq, many of them civilians in US military bases, despite a ban on their deployment in that country.

The ban was imposed after De la Cruz was kidnapped by Iraqi militants. He was released unharmed after the Philippines withdrew its small military contingent taking part in the US-led coalition.

Asuque said the Philippines would continue to have diplomatic relations with Iraq. He said the ties were never severed even at the height of the US-led military campaign to oust strongman Saddam Hussein. *With AFP report*



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RP negotiator flying to KL

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE GOVERNMENT'S chief negotiator would be flying to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss the stalled peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, according to Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao.

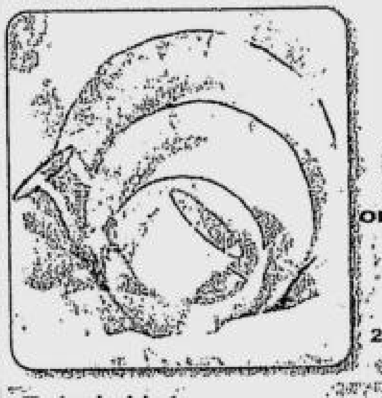
"I think Secretary Silvestre Afable will be going next week to KL for some consultations to fast track it," Tiglao told reporters at the Ambassador Hotel forum yesterday, responding to a question about the postponed peace talks.

The MILF received notice of the postponement of the round table discussions last week. There was no reason given for the postponement, said MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal.

Tiglao yesterday also commended the MILF for declining to join the political discussions and call for the President's resignation as opposition and other anti-government groups like the New People's Army had done.

"MILF didn't join the fray. I think it's a very principled stand of the MILF.. maybe because they know the politicians of the country," he said.

Earlier, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu also said the ongoing political crisis, in which various groups have been calling for the President to resign amid allegations of election fraud, would not affect the peace talks with the government.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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 30, 2005
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Lev 25:1,8-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:1-12

On one occasion the news about Jesus reached King Herod. And he said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. John has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

Herod had, in fact, ordered that John be arrested, bound in chains and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. For John had said to him, "It is not right for you to have her as wife." Herod wanted to kill him but he did not dare, because he feared the people who regarded John as a prophet.

On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced in the midst of the guests; she so delighted Herod that he promised under oath to give her anything she asked. The girl, following the advice of her mother, said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but because he had made this promise under oath in the presence of the guests, he ordered it to be given her. So he had John beheaded in prison and his head brought on a dish and given to the girl. The girl then took it to her mother.

Then John's disciples came to take his body and bury it. And they went to bring the news to Jesus.

Commentary

John the Baptist has been executed—beheaded at a dinner party to please his brothers' wife who he had taken as his own, after murdering his brother. Herod had long wanted to kill John but was afraid of the people who saw John as a prophet. When his wife and his stepdaughter trick him into killing John he is displeased but he kills him nonetheless. The voice in the wilderness crying out for conversion, for hope and justice, for repentance is stilled forever but his voice and soul echo in the world. There is no way to silence the Word of God. Then Herod hears of Jesus' teaching and works and in fear, believes it is John returning to haunt him and terrify him. John's body is claimed by his disciples and after they bury him, they bring the news to Jesus. How did Jesus react? Grief, anger, sorrow, such stupidity of evil and violence! The one who went before his face is gone—now he sets his face towards Jerusalem of the prophets. Do we listen to our prophets today?

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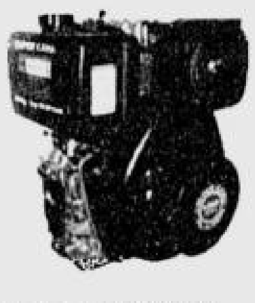
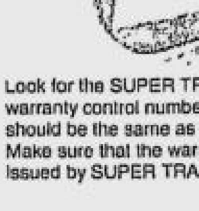

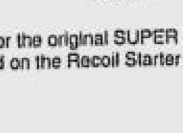
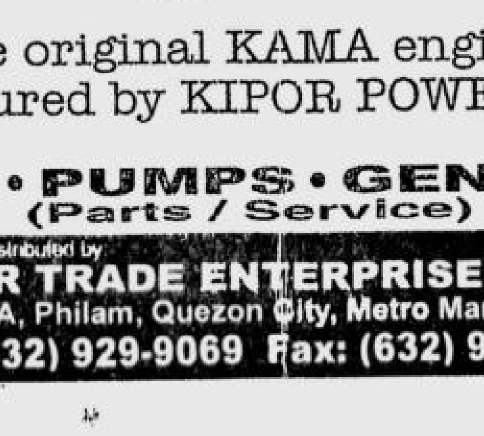

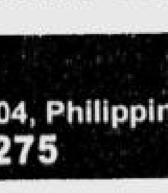
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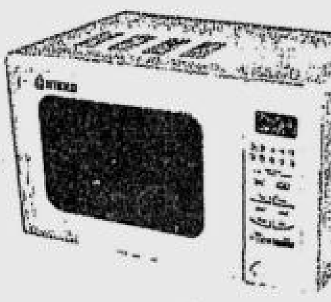
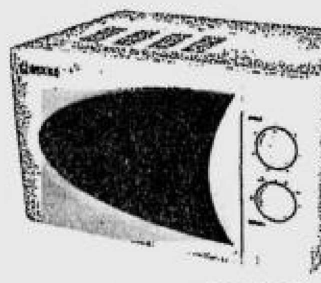
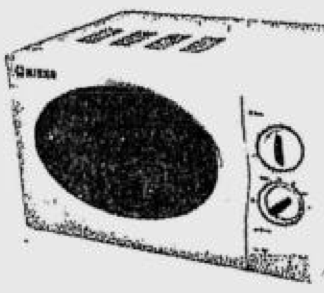
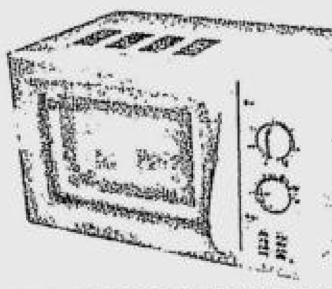
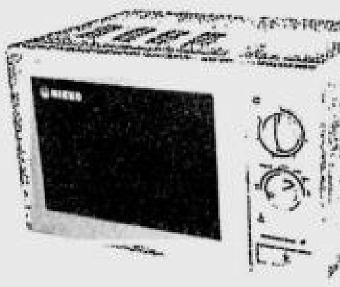
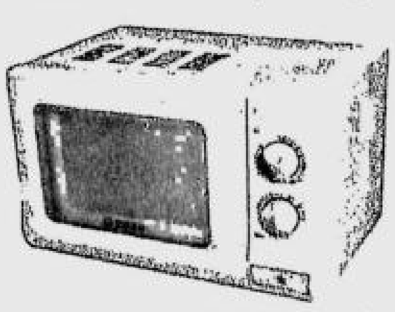
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HISTORY

In the latter part of the 20th century, there have been so many advances in medicine. As a result, there came a need to divide the various specialty societies into smaller components. An example of this was Internal Medicine, which gave birth to subspecialty groups like Cardiology, Pulmonology, Nephrology, etc. General Surgery was not spared from this reorientation with new advances in surgical technology, research, and development. The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), the premier surgical specialty society, saw the organization of various subspecialty groups like Orthopedics, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery, Urology, Neurosurgery, and others. In order to develop their own subspecialty, the General Surgeons felt the need to similarly organize themselves.

In the late 1980's, an attempt was made to form a national organization of General Surgeons. However, the concept met some resistance and it was only in 1991 when the idea was again floated . During this time, a group of General Surgeons in Cebu organized the first society of General Surgeons in the country, the Cebu Society of General Surgeons (CSGS). Dr. Willie N. Lagdameo, then Chair of the Board of Governors of the Philippine College of Surgeons, revived the issue of organizing a national society of General Surgeons. Spearheaded by the CSGS and through Dr. Samuel D. Trocio, the PCS Cebu Chapter's Governor, the Board of Governors submitted a letter to the PCS for the creation of a national General Surgery subspecialty group.

In 1997, Dr. Florentino C. Doble, President of the PCS, favorably endorsed the concept to the PCS Board of Regents, its highest policy-making body. Dr. Antonio B. Sison, upon his assumption to the PCS Presidency in the following year, again favorably endorsed the proposal. These endorsements snowballed throughout the country until the creation of a national organization of General Surgeons became inevitable and imminent.

During the 1998 PCS Midyear Convention in Davao City, a Board of Incorporators was organized to finalize the creation of the national specialty society for General Surgeons and to begin drafting its constitution and by-laws. After numerous meetings and consultations, the Incorporators finally called for an organizational meeting during the December 1998 PCS Annual Convention to formally introduce the Society and begin accepting charter members. In January 1999, the Philippine Society of General Surgeons was incorporated and registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission. On May 22, 1999, during the PCS Midyear Convention in Subic, Zambales, the Board of Incorporators conducted a mass induction for all charter members.

To date, the Society has a membership of 829 Fellows. Among its many activities are the formulation of continuing surgical educational programs to update its membership of the latest surgical information, the monitoring of 64 accredited GS Residency Training Programs nationwide where future GS specialists are trained and developed, preparation of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines to assist GS practitioners, research of new surgical information and technology, and the initiation of various socio-civic and environmental conservation activities.

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire Society, I would like to extend our warmest invitation for you to join us in our 3^{rd} Surgical Forum which will be held on August 4 - 6, 2005 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. This year's forum addresses "Critical Decision-Making in General Surgery," a topic that will surely help surgeons in making sound clinical judgment in their practice and enhance patient care.

The Program Committee has exerted another outstanding effort to bring to all of our Fellows, residents, and guests a comprehensive array of educational sessions that will not only tackle updates in General Surgery but more importantly, impart the basic logic and techniques of critical decision-making based on scientific evidence and experience.

As always, there will be a Fellowship Night that everyone can look forward to. Please make plans to join us in the Forum this August.

Collegially,

Dominador M. Chiong, Jr., MD, FPCS, FPSGS
President

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

IRA formally abandons armed struggle

BELFAST—The Irish Republican Army formally ended more than 30 years of armed struggle in Northern Ireland on Thursday, pledging to lay down its weapons and fight British rule through purely peaceful means.

The British, Irish and US governments welcomed the statement as "historic" provided the Roman Catholic paramilitary group matched its words with deeds, but the head of the province's main Protestant party was more skeptical.

The IRA's order to abandon its armed campaign to unite Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic—a move anticipated for months but nonetheless a remarkable moment for the British-ruled territory—came into effect at 4 p.m.

The move, which comes against the backdrop of worldwide revulsion over terrorism, appeared designed to revive the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement and the power-sharing institutions that have been suspended.

"All IRA units have been ordered to dump arms," the group said, adding its militants "have been instructed to assist the development of purely political and democratic programs through exclusively peaceful means."

It said that militants "must not engage in any other activities whatsoever" and described the order as compulsory.

But the statement stopped short of disbanding the organization, as demanded by leading Protestants, and it also omitted any apology for past bombings.

"Our decisions have been taken to advance our republican and democratic objectives, including our goal of a united Ireland," the group said.

"We believe there is now an alternative way to achieve this and to end British rule in our country."

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern released separate and joint statements welcoming the breakthrough.

"If the IRA's words are borne out by actions, it will be a momentous and historic development," the two men said in a joint statement.

"This may be the day when finally after all the false dawns and dashed hopes, peace replaces war, politics replaces terror on the island of Ireland," added Blair in a separate comment. "This is a step of unparalleled magnitude in the recent history of Northern Ireland."

In Washington, US President George W. Bush's chief spokesperson Scott McClellan called the announcement "an important and potentially historic statement."

But Ian Paisley, the veteran hardline leader of Northern Ireland's biggest Protestant party, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), was far more cautious, noting that the IRA statement lacked an explicit call to end criminal activity.

"They have failed to provide the level of transparency that will be necessary to truly build confidence that the guns have gone in their entirety," he said, insisting it would delay the whole process.

The Good Friday deal paved the way for a Protestant-Catholic power-sharing assembly in Belfast, but this was suspended almost three years ago amid allegations of IRA spying. *AFP*

UN to expand crackdown on terror

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council is poised to approve on Friday a major expansion of its global program aimed at depriving al-Qaida and Afghanistan's Taliban of the means to carry out "criminal terrorist acts."

A US-drafted resolution expands and better defines the universe of groups covered by the existing council initiative, which was put in place after the deadly Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, US Mission spokesperson Ben Chang said.

Co-sponsored by Japan, Russia and Greece, the measure also sets out additional steps governments must take to try to prevent individuals and groups tied to al-Qaida or the Taliban from sponsoring, organizing and carrying out attacks.

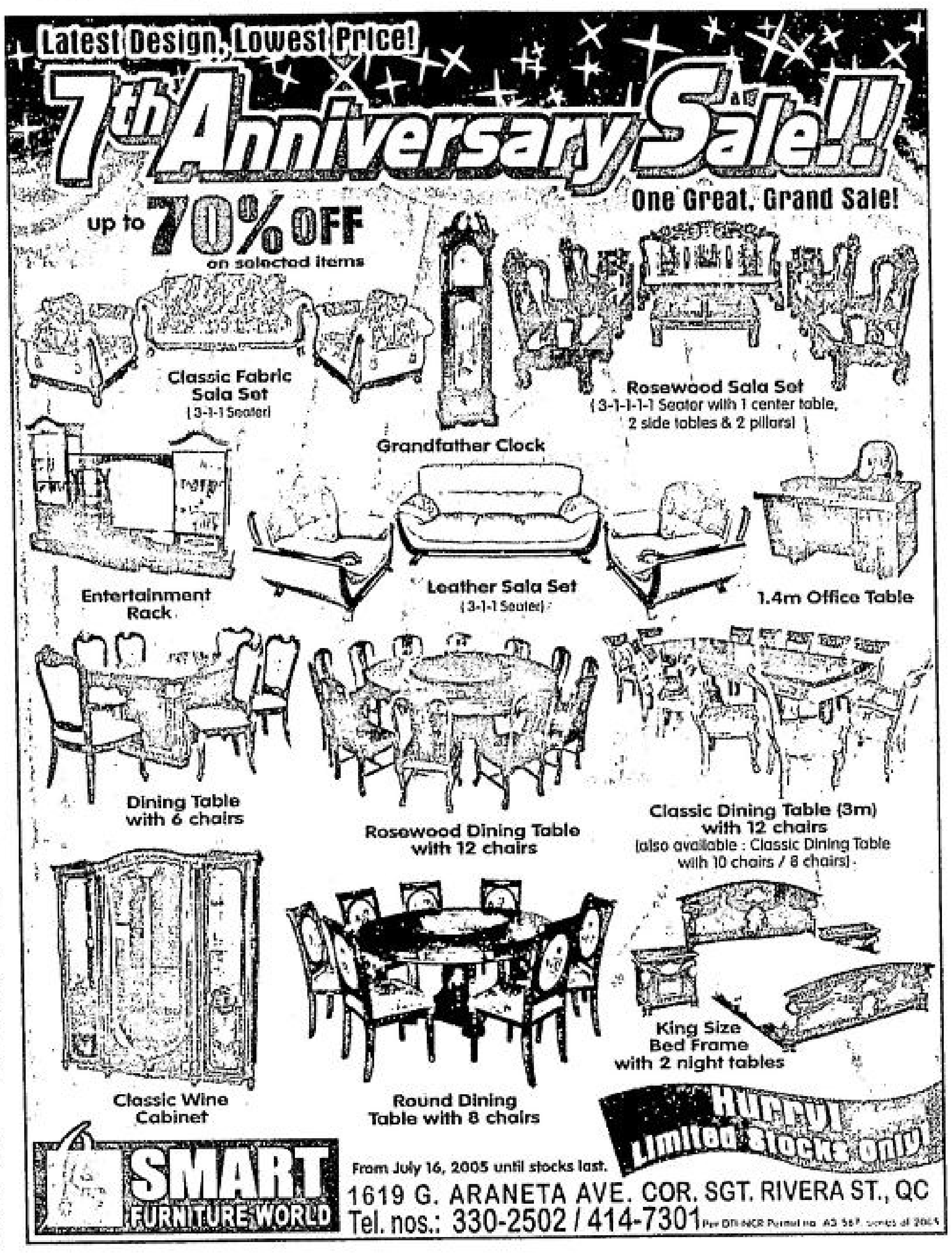
The text was put into final form on Thursday, three weeks after Washington first circulated it among the council's 14 other members. It is expected to be adopted unanimously.

Under the current program, intended to deprive suspected extremists of the money and other resources they need to carry out attacks, a Security Council committee maintains a list of more than 300 names of businesses, organizations and individuals suspected of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Putting names on the list obliges the 191 UN member nations to freeze their funds and other assets, block their travel and keep them from obtaining arms and other resources.

The draft resolution expands the initiative's reach by putting within its reach any individual or entity "participating in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of" al-Qaida or the Taliban.

Also covered would be "any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof" as well as any group or individual recruiting for them or supplying them with arms. *Reuters*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Death toll in India surges past 800 mark

MUMBAI—Deaths from India's heaviest rainfall on record surged past the 800 mark when residents of a Mumbai shantytown stampeded following false rumors a dam had burst, police and officials said Friday.

Floods, landslides and building collapses had claimed at least 786 lives in Maharashtra state prior to Thursday's stampede in the suburb of Nehru Nagar which left a further 16 dead including seven children.

Eighteen people were also injured in the stampede, which followed reports that the dam holding back the waters of nearby Lake Pawai had burst, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency.

"The slum was not having electric supply and as such the slum residents were not able to see or hear appeals by police on television urging people not to believe in the rumors," police chief Arup Patnaik was quoted as saying by PTI.

Weather officials predicted more heavy rain for the city of 15 million, which has been brought to a near-standstill with schools, banks and stock markets closed and public transport barely operating.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who Thursday toured the rain-ravaged areas in a helicopter, said he was "deeply pained by this human tragedy" and announced emergency aid totaling seven billion rupees ($162 million) for the Maharashtra state government.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry estimated damage in Maharashtra at 10 billion rupees.

B.M. Kulkarni, who heads Maharashtra state's police emergency control room, told AFP Thursday before the reports of the stampede that 273 people had died in Mumbai and at least 513 in other parts of the state.

He said the death toll rose sharply after more than 160 deaths by drowning were reported in Mumbai.

"Around 166 people drowned in these floods and these numbers came in only much later," Kulkarni said.

Aerial pictures of Mumbai showed much of the city marooned in debris-laden water. Long queues of vehicles were stranded on highways.

However, the main airport reopened early afternoon after being closed since Tuesday due to waterlogged runways.

Aside from allowing the resumption of commercial flights, the reopening had allowed the air force to start flying in relief materials, PTI said.

Suburban trains—the lifeline of the city—were also limping back to normal, a railway official said, but inter-city lines had yet to be restored.

Heavy casualties occurred in a remote village in Raighad district of the rain-lashed state, where at least 100 people from 20 families were feared killed by a landslide, PTI said.

Tonnes of mud flattened houses in Jui village, 170 kilometers (105 miles) south of Mumbai, on Monday but news of the tragedy reached authorities only three days later, the report said.

Soldiers had reached the village of rice farmers and were supervising rescue and relief operations but "it is difficult to remove the debris without machines," said an officer.

"Even then it would take days ... and the chances of rescuing people alive is remote," an army official told PTI.

Authorities were air-dropping food and water to stranded residents of Mumbai and Raighad, the Hindi news channel Aaj Tak said.

The city's weather bureau said Mumbai received 944.2 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period ending mid-morning Wednesday, the most rainfall ever recorded in a single day in India and beating a record which has stood since July 1910.

Power supplies that had been cut as a precaution as the rains flooded streets waist-high were restored to some parts of the city. *AFP*

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US, 5 Asia Pacific nations unveil new climate initiative

VIENTIANE—The United States, China and four Asia-Pacific nations on Thursday announced a partnership to cut greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, but environmental groups dismissed the plan as unworkable.

Australia, India, Japan and South Korea joined with the world's top two polluters in presenting the initiative, which they said could help reduce gas emissions while still promoting economic growth.

Four of the six nations are major coal producers, and environmental groups were quick to accuse the group of trying to get around the Kyoto Protocol, saying the plan had no targets or deadlines and would not be legally binding.

"We are not trying to detract from Kyoto and the commitments that a number of countries have made under the Kyoto Protocol," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said at the announcement here.

"This partnership will complement and not replace the Kyoto Protocol," he said. Downer and fellow foreign ministers were to work out the details at a meeting in Australia in November.

The United States and Australia are the sole major industrialized nations that have refused to join Kyoto, the main world treaty on global warming, arguing it is economically unfair because it does not require cuts in gas emissions from developing nations such as China and India.

"The fairness and effectiveness of this proposal will be superior to the Kyoto Protocol," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in Sydney.

"It's fair in Australia and not something that will destroy Australian jobs and unfairly penalize Australian industries," said Howard, whose country is the world's number-one exporter of coal.

"The key here is to maintain the flexibility," Deputy US Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said at the unveiling of the initiative on the sidelines of an Asian security forum in Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

The agreement will "open up the possibilities for developing, deploying and transferring" new and more efficient technologies, he said, including nuclear, wind and solar power.

Indian External Affairs Minister Raoul Inderjit Singh said the energy needs of his developing nation were going to increase but it was aware of the need to protect the environment. *AFP*

A VIEW of the multi-purpose logistics mod
Space Station's Unity module, with the Ea

No damag shuttle so

HOUSTON—Shuttle Discovery's right wing have been struck by a small piece of foam flew off its external fuel tank during launch no damage has been detected and the shi pears in good shape for an Aug. 7 landing, managers said on Thursday.

Discovery's seven astronauts boarded th ternational Space Station high above the Ear Thursday, the first shuttle crew to visit sinc 2003 Columbia disaster and now because of safety concerns, possibly the last for some ti

Preventing the insulating foam from she off the fuel tank has been the primary fo Nasa's $1 billion safety upgrade program fo ing the Columbia accident, which was caus a chunk of foam that hit the ship's left wing ly after liftoff.

As Columbia attempted to return to Ear landing on Feb. 1, 2003, superheated atmos ic gases blasted into the broken wing pane tore the ship apart, killing the seven astro aboard.

This flight was supposed to have been umphant return to manned US space fligh the newly redesigned tank failed its first t shed large pieces of foam that missed the sh as well as smaller pieces, including the on radar analysis shows might have hit Discove

"Indications are this little piece of foam t turn and struck the wing," deputy space s program manager Wayne Hale said dur news conference.

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Vietnam reports 2 bird flu deaths

HANOI—Two people have died of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in southern Vietnam, raising the toll from the disease in the country to 41, a health official in Ho Chi Minh City said Friday. A 24-year-old man died Monday in a hospital in Tra Vin province and a 26-year-old woman from Ho Chi Minh City died Wednesday in the city's Cho Ray hospital, the official said. "Both of them were found to have tested positive for the H5N1 virus," said doctor Phan Van Tu from the southern busines capital's Pasteur Institute. A health official from Tra Vinh province said the man had died as a result of direct contact through the culling of infected chickens "W are investigating and quarantining the areas around his home, where all of his 1 chickens had shown symptoms of illness," said Thach Nhon, head of the Cang Long district's preventive healthcare center. "There are also infected chickens in the neighborhood." *A*

Yemeni sheikh gets 75 years for backing terror

NEW YORK—A Yemeni sheikh arrested after an FBI sting operation in German in 2003 was sentenced to 75 years in prison on Thursday for conspiring to support and fund al-Qaida and Hamas. Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad 56, was sentenced to 75 years and fined $1.25 million in federal court in Brooklyn. For each of five counts, he received 15-year sentences, each to be served consecutively. Prosecutor Kelly Moore said during the trial that al-Moayad had ties to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, and had bragged about having "taugh him about Islamic law." The sheikh was arrested in Germany in 2003 after tell a federal agent posing as an American businessman that he would help him tun nel money to militants, prosecutors said. He was later extradited to the United States. *Reute*

Insurgents blow up Iraqi train

BAGHDAD—Insurgents set off a huge blaze when they blew up a train carrying petroleum products in Baghdad as governments around the world condemned the murder of two Algerian diplomats kidnapped last week. The oil train attack was the first such attack in Iraq, railway spokesperson Jawad Al-Kharsan told AFP. The attack ignited a massive blaze extending down the railway line in southern Baghdad. An Ira soldier was killed and four others, including a civilian, were injured in the blast The five-man train crew however escaped unhurt, railway officials said. The seven-tanke convoy was attacked less than a kilometer (half a mile) away from the Dura oil refinery. An interior ministry official said the train struck a bomb on the line, but railway workers said the explosion could also have been caused by a rocket-propelled grenade. *A*

US warns Iran vs nuke deal violations

WASHINGTON—The White House warned Iran on Thursday against resuming key work on its nuclear fuel cycle, saying it could prompt the United States and its European allies to pursue UN sanctions against Tehran. On Wednesday outgoing Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said Iran would resume some work on its nuclear fu cycle, which the West suspects is part of a clandestine effort to produce a bomb "I made some commitments to suspend their uranium enrichment and reprocessing a tivities. We expect them to abide by that commitment," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan told reporters. "If Iran is going to violate their agreements, then we would obviously be looking at discussing with (the) Europeans, who have also committed to doing so, looking at going to the (United Nations) Security Council," McClellan added. *Reute*

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ule that is berthed to the International
th in the background July 29. REUTERS

British police warn of more bombings

LONDON—The police chief warned deadly terror cells could strike any time as thousands of officers flooded the transit system, made more arrests and grilled suspects in their biggest investigation ever. Exhausted police faced their greatest challenge since World War II.

With sleeper cells still thought to be active, it's "a race against time," Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said Thursday.

Police nabbed a terror suspect linked to the deadly July 7 bombings after he crossed into Zambia from Zimbabwe, a Zambian official said. Authorities also arrested nine new suspects in Britain and kept up interrogations of a captured bomber from the July 21 attacks.

"It does remain possible that those at large will strike again," Blair said. "There are many thousands of police officers trying to ensure the safety of Londoners."

Blair would not say how many of the force's 30,000 officers were on duty Thursday, exactly three weeks since the July 7 bombings — which killed 56 people including four bombers—and one week since the botched July 21 bombings.

But he called it "the largest investigation the Met (Metropolitan police) has ever mounted" and "the greatest operational challenge that the Metropolitan police service has faced since the Second World War."

Separately, the British Transport Police scrambled their largest-ever deployment to patrol the rail network. Though spokesperson Simon Lubin refused to reveal how many officers were deployed, he said 1,300 officers in the capital and about the same number across Britain were working longer hours, and some vacations were canceled.

Blair said his officers were exhausted, with some "very tired faces" around Scotland Yard. But they were determined as they hunt for three more men suspected of taking part in the July 21 attack and anyone that might have helped them. Police have 20 people in custody.

Though four bombs only partially detonated on three subway trains and a bus, their failure did not signal a weakening of the terrorists, Blair insisted.

"This is not the 'B' team. These weren't the amateurs. They made a mistake," he said. "They only made one mistake, and we're very, very lucky."

The bombs, made of biodegradable material, had probably weakened by the time of the attack, officials have said.

At a top security London police station, officers interrogated Yasin Hassan Omar, 24, a Somali citizen with British residency who is suspected of carrying out the failed attack at the Warren Street station. Under police guidelines, the interrogation sessions would last for about six hours, with breaks and an attorney present.

Police also arrested nine men in the south London neighborhood of Tooting under the Terrorism Act.

Police said three of them were Turks who lived above a fast food restaurant where they worked selling halal burgers—made with meat slaughtered according to Islamic dietary laws.

The restaurant owner, who gave his name as Ali, declined to identify the men but said they were aged about 26, 30 and 40. The oldest had worked for him for eight years, and the other two started about two months ago, he said.

Six other men were arrested at a home on a street opposite the Tooting Broadway subway station, police said.

"There were about a dozen armed police officers shouting 'Come on out or we'll send the dogs in.' And then I saw one large, older-looking Asian man being led out. He was dressed in a white gown or robe," said Ben Astbury, 25, who watched the raid from his house.

In Zambia, Haroon Rashid Aswat, 31, was in custody after being arrested in the border town of Livingstone, an official there said. Aswat is believed to have been in telephone contact with some of the July 7 suicide bombers.

Also Thursday, Blair was grilled by an oversight panel regarding a shoot-to-kill policy for potential suicide bombers that resulted in the death of an innocent man—a Brazilian electrician police believed was ready to set off a bomb on the subway. *AP*

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crew and the space station crew found no evidence of damage that would cause concern during the shuttle's return to Earth.

Nasa said it will not launch any more shuttle missions until the problem is fixed.

"We will not fly again with that hanging over us," said Hale.

He said in an e-mail to Discovery's crew that he was

"absolutely mortified at the performance of the external tank foam."

Nasa also is studying whether anything can be done to prevent collisions with wildlife, Hale said, referring to a bird that was pulverized by the shuttle during its launch on Tuesday.

"We've never see a bird strike in the program before," Hale said.

Nasa was nevertheless pleased that Discovery had about 80 percent fewer dings on its heat-resistant tiles than what has been found on previous missions.

"That's kind of the silver lining to the black cloud," Hale said.

Discovery's crew spent the day setting up equipment aboard the space station, which has not been serviced by a shuttle crew since November 2002.

With the prospect that Discovery's mission may be the last to the outpost for a while, Nasa was looking at what additional supplies, such as extra food, oxygen and a laptop computer, can be left behind to help tide over the station crew. *Reuters*

US, N. Korea hold longest face-to-face meeting at nuke talks

BEIJING—The top US envoy held his longest meeting yet Thursday with the North Koreans amid six-nation talks aimed at convincing Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons, but signs of progress were scant as stark differences remained between the sides.

US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said Thursday he hoped to start drafting a statement "in the next 24 hours" with results of the talks so far—a possible indication that negotiations were inching forward.

"We've had a lot of discussions with a lot of the delegations, so we'd like to see if we can put some of these thoughts down on paper and see where we are," Hill said. "We have a long way to go still."

The six-nation talks that began Tuesday are the fourth meeting where China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States have come together to press North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions.

There were not any breakthroughs in earlier talks, and many delegates said they don't expect one at this round, which convened after a 13-month hiatus while the North refused attend, citing "hostile" US policies. Most parties have said they hope merely to set a date for a fifth session.

No deadline has been set for the end of this week's negotiations in the Chinese capital, unlike other sessions that lasted three days. *AP*

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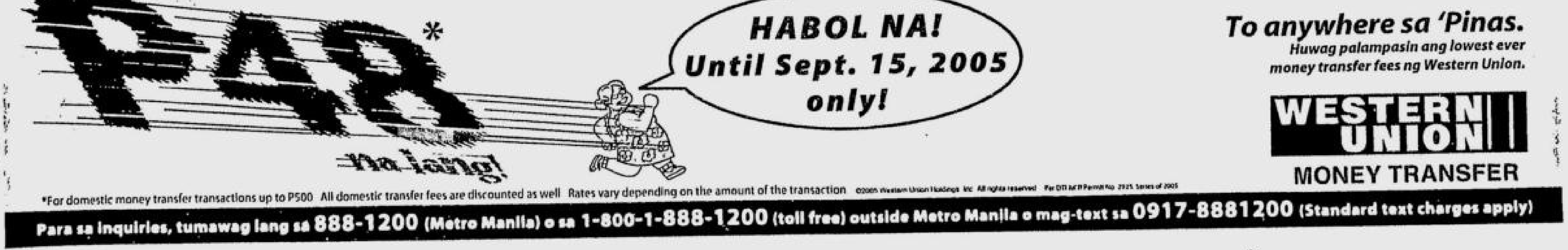
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Thorn in Asean's side

EDITORIAL

THE DECISION of Burma to forgo its chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in favor of the Philippines—after frank discussion with its Asean partners—is proof that quiet diplomacy can ease diplomatic irritants and even resolve foreign crises. The decision spared Asean members from rebuke by the West over the Burmese military junta's poor human rights record. Sadly, however, the development does not resolve the problem posed by the continued membership of Burma, a thorn in the side of Asean.

At issue is Burma's repulsive democratic record. This record has been put under even more intense scrutiny this year since Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace laureate who has been held in detention since her National League of Democracy won by a landslide the elections in 1990, is celebrating her 60th birthday. She has spent almost 10 of the last 16 years in confinement due to the ruling junta's refusal to recognize the results of the election. She has become Southeast Asia's Nelson Mandela, a rallying cry for the worldwide pro-democracy movement.

In the meantime, Burma's human rights record has deteriorated. According to the Human Rights Watch, Burma's army continues to target civilians while fighting ethnic Karen rebels, with extrajudicial killings and forcible displacement of people. Sexual violence, forced labor and looting of villages are common practices of the "unreformed and unaccountable" army, the rights group said.

It was the hope of Asean that by admitting Burma to the group, it would be able to engage the Rangoon regime and influence it to democratize. That was in 1997. But since then, Rangoon has shown no sign of relaxing its hold on power, much less paving the way for democracy and civilian rule.

Asean can't complain it had not been warned about taking in Burma. To the chagrin of the West, human rights groups, popular sectors in the Philippines, and even former President Corazon Aquino, it chose in 1997 to grant Burma her much coveted Asean membership. Since then, Burma has been able to use the Asean to deodorize its depredations. The military junta likewise has not only been able to buy sweet time; it has used its membership to legitimize and perpetuate its rule.

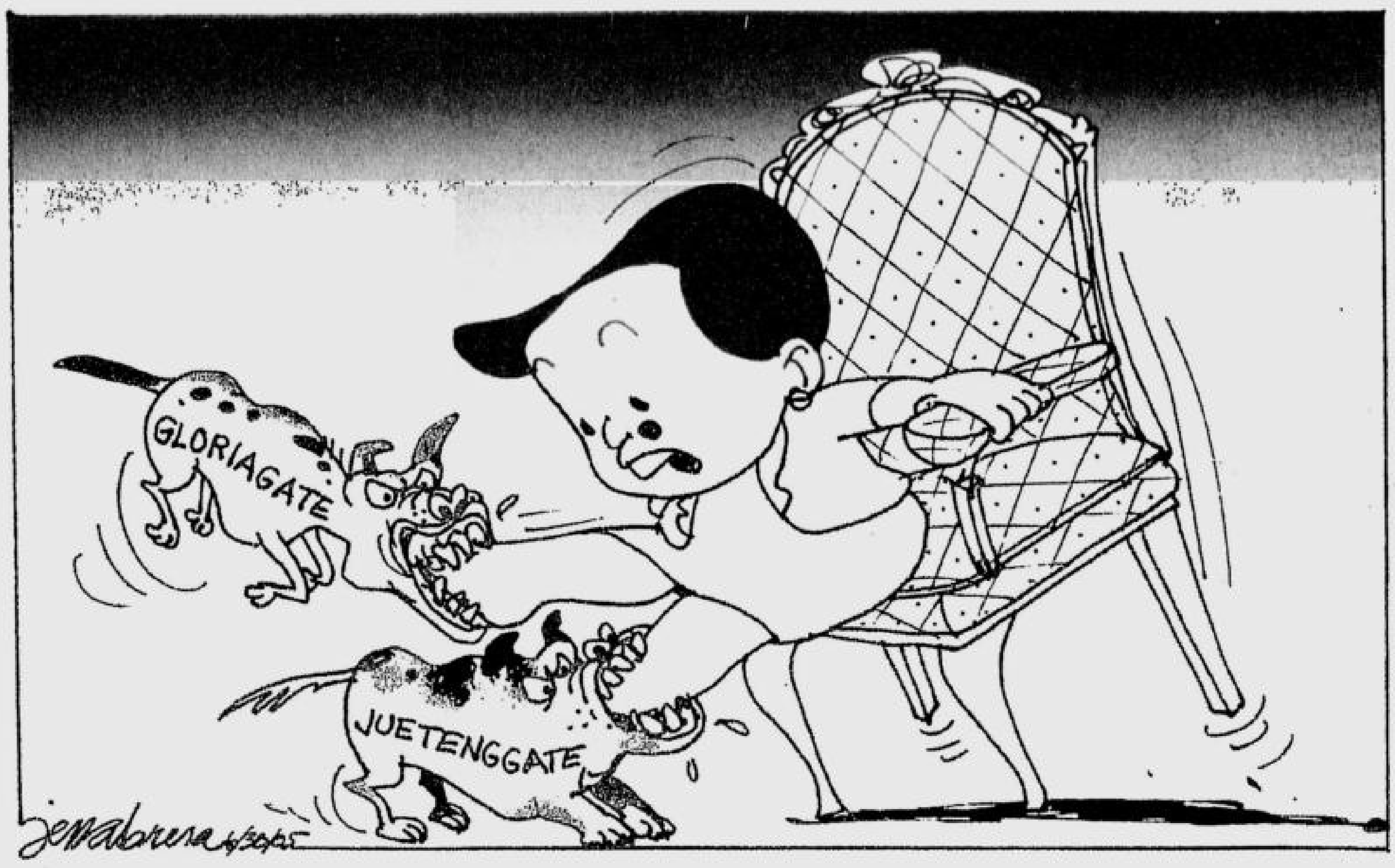
Asean has been placed in the difficult position of engaging a military regime that has shown no sign of ever recognizing the democratic wind sweeping the world, while keeping the partnership together in the face of rebuffs by the international community over its inability to advance the democratic and human rights agenda in Burma. The engagement with Burma has not only been an embarrassment to Asean but a disgrace.

But since Asean is stuck with Burma, it should show more forceful resolve in compelling Rangoon to draw a map toward democratization that would start with nothing less than Suu Kyi's release and recognition of the 1997 election. If Rangoon's decision of forgoing the Asean chairmanship is any indication, then the junta may either be ripe for fruitful engagement or digging in for the long haul.

The possibility of more forceful and positive engagement is present because the pressure on Burma to give up its turn at the chairmanship is a slap in the face that may yet wake up the junta into realizing that it cannot play deaf and blind anymore to the rousing global campaign for the release of Suu Kyi and the democratization of the country. The slights and snubs it has been suffering should make the junta realize that Burma cannot take its place in the community of nations as long as it continues to be ruled with an iron hand by a military cabal that is a throwback to a discredited era.

However, the development could merely indicate that the junta has swallowed the bitter pill of passing over the Asean chairmanship in order to delay swallowing the more bitter pill of giving up power. It would rather lose this provisional battle rather than the more important and more overreaching goal of staying in power. It seems it has set its sights on longevity and perpetuity.

The latter prospect should prove again a big headache for Asean. It should not heave a sigh of relief now that it has evaded the West's boycott with its gentle prodding for Burma to pass over the chairmanship to the Philippines. Its victory, if any, is merely temporary. The generals of Rangoon may have given up a tactical position in the short term in order to score a strategic victory over the long term.



Metro Manila and the rest of the country

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

METRO Manila is not the Philippines, a major daily headlined two Sundays ago in reporting on the pro-GMA rally held the day before at the Luneta. The headline was a direct quote from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who was trying to downplay the several surveys held recently in Metro Manila showing the growing unpopularity of his boss among its residents.

Ermita sought to show that such sentiment was not shared by the rest of the country that, he submitted, was still enamored of President Macapagal-Arroyo. I suppose he was thinking particularly of Cebu, where she reportedly got a million votes, and Iloilo, where she was grandly welcomed when she visited it with two sons of the province, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and her former ally and now a disenchanted oppositionist, Senate President Franklin Drilon. Perhaps he also included her election victory in Mindanao but prudently thought not to mention it because of the Garci tapes.

I can understand Ermita's defense of President Arroyo, who appointed him and can discontinue his incumbency at any time at her pleasure. Even if she does not do so in appreciation of his loyalty, he may find himself out of a job too if his principal is booted out of Malacañang, which is not a remote possibility. The Cabinet member is the alter ego of the President and must also be dismissed when the principal is removed. That consequence must have been uppermost in the minds of President Arroyo's staff when they campaigned for her reelection last year and is presumably also why they now continue to extol her challenged virtues.

Regarding Ermita's remark that Metro Manila is not the Philippines, I suspect that it was provoked by his hostility toward this region because of its general disapprobation of President Arroyo, whom he must boldly defend like the former officer of the Armed Forces that he is. He is right, of course, in a physical or territorial sense, but that surely was not his meaning. He was saying that there was a difference between Metro Manila and the rest of the country in a political sense.

I have as much respect for the rest of the country as Ermita does, perhaps more than he because I am not speaking as a politician like him. I have much admiration for the people of this country, whether they are in the centers of population or in the remote barrios far from the wheels of government. The Filipinos who have brought us where we are now come from all areas of our territory and all levels of our society and they decide our common destiny together.

But in dismissing Metro Manila as a peculiar entity that does not represent the thinking of the nation, Ermita is being narrow-minded. He is excluding this region as being too exacting in its assessment of the government and its officials, overly critical and too demanding of results that are not easily attained, prone to disagreement and turmoil, and also an egghead. That is why it does not favor his beleaguered leader.

He must be thinking that the rest of the country is not like Metro Manila but patient like the carabao that toils for them, understands the limitations of the government, is patient with official incompetence and even corruption, and no less intelligent although not better educated than those in Metro Manila. Although he does not say so bravely, the people outside Metro Manila have better sense because they support President Arroyo.

That assumption is erroneous because there are a substantial number of voters from the rest of the country, and also in Metro Manila, who do not support President Arroyo now, including some who voted for her last year like Dinky Soliman and the renegade Drilon. The followers of the late Fernando Poe Jr., came not only from Metro Manila but also from many other parts of the country like the bailiwicks of the *bakya* crowd and his strongholds in Mindanao.

The considerable number of votes cast for Eddie Villanueva and Raul Roco, together with the Poe votes, represent the number of citizens, and those under their influence, who do not favor GMA. They dwell not only in Metro Manila but in the rest of the country as well, from north to south and in between. These are the real Philippines that Ermita grandly concludes without proof as continuing to support President Arroyo despite Metro Manila.

Manila before the war used to be populated mainly by the Tagalogs, but the expanded Metro Manila today includes not only its original residents but Filipinos from all over the country that have come to this region in search of a better life. Ilocanos and Bicolanos from Luzon, people from the different Visayan provinces, even the Muslims from Mindanao, and let us not forget our Chinese countrymen, now congest Metro Manila to contribute to its progress or stagnation.

The present population of Metro Manila is a cross-section of the entire nation. It is not different from the rest of the country except for its leadership in business, education, arts and entertainment, labor assertiveness, and, most importantly—political thought. This was expressed, correctly or not, in the last election and in the surveys recently conducted on the acceptability of President Arroyo.

Doing our homework

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE REACTION of those opposed to the President was predictable. They attributed the basest of motives to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for Charter change in her State of the Nation Address. They said she did it to take the heat off the Garci tapes controversy—a diversionary tactic; or, that it was a quid pro quo for an assurance from the House leadership that the one-third vote necessary to shortcut the impeachment process and send it directly to the Senate for trial would never come. And not only was there a quid pro quo, but the agreement was a written one, signed by Gloria.

To hear them say it, it is truly Machiavellian, or Fidelian or Venecian, depending on who is doing the talking. She crafted a win-win situation for both parties in the agreement: Gloria gets the breathing space to stay in power and the members of Congress get what they have been lusting this past decade—a (parliamentary) system where they exercise both legislative and executive power.

That may well be the case. But in their anxiety to cast the President in the worst possible light, her foes chose to forget three salient facts:

First is that, as I recall, she was already talking about the need to change the system of government from presidential and unitary to parliamentary and federal during the 2004 election campaign. And I remember this because this stance was one of the reasons I did not vote for her. Being against a parliamentary system, I was disgusted at what I considered a sell-out on her part.

Second is that in her 2004 Sona, she already referred to Charter change. The pertinent passage reads: "Once we have proved to our people that we have done what we can within the present structure of government, we can move on to changing the system to one that enhances our freedom and flexibility to do more...I expect that next year, Congress will start considering the resolutions for Charter change."

And third is that in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010, the outline of which she reportedly single-handedly crafted and merely asked the Neda to flesh out, changes in the Constitution were considered necessary for its success. I know that I attacked this particular recommendation because it just popped out without (in my opinion) any predicates being laid out for it in the document. At the time, I think I even made some comments (definitely oral, probably written as well) about then Neda Director General Romy Neri being a well-trained lapdog of his former boss, Joe de Venecia, who has been a tireless and stubborn advocate of a parliamentary form of government.

The above three facts should, under normal circumstances, have put paid to any lingering suspicions as to the "timing" of the 2005 Sona proposal of the President. It should at least show that the President's call for Charter change, in particular a parliamentary, federal form of government is not a spur-of-the-moment, back-against-the-wall reaction to save her skin, temporarily or permanently.

But not to the critics. To hear them say it, she was asking that a constituent assembly be convened right away, and that within a year, at most, a new constitution would be in place. Excuse me. That is what Fidel Ramos wants. What the President said in her 2005 Sona was: "The system clearly needs fundamental change, and the sooner the better. It's time to start the great debate on Charter change.... The mode of Charter change is the exclusive prerogative of Congress. But a constituent assembly may well give our people the quickest reforms."

This implies that she now prefers a constituent assembly contrary to her expressed preference as late as March or April this year for a constitutional convention. But does it sound like someone demanding something and imposing a deadline for it?

All the above being said, I have never held the view—and much less now—that Charter change is the answer to all our problems. There is no empirical evidence anywhere in the world that supports De Venecia's assertions that a parliamentary form of government will solve the problems of poverty and corruption, of cheating and excessive election spending, no evidence that changing the economic provisions of the Constitution will generate a flood of foreign investment. There is no magic bullet, no quick fix—not even Charter change—to our problems.

We want to prevent election cheating and excessive election spending? The solution lies not in constitutional change but in a reformed Comelec headed by competent commissioners committed to modernizing elections and strict implementation of election rules.

We want to minimize graft and corruption? The answer lies not in constitutional change but in going after these criminals tooth and nail, sending the message that the costs of being corrupt are much greater than the benefits.

We want to create a climate for long-term investments in the country? Then stop creating uncertainty with repeated calls to amend the Constitution for every "crisis" under the sun.

We want democracy at the grass roots? The answer lies not in constitutional change, but in implementing our Local Government Code, which requires barangay assemblies (the closest thing to direct democracy we have and an authentic parliamentary system) to be held twice a year in each barangay, so that the people have a direct hand in holding their chairmen accountable and in directing them to do their will.

There is no substitute for doing our homework.

An increasingly obsolete Senate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ONE may not like the way Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez parts his hair, or his lack of gallantry toward former President Aquino, but one has to admit that he says things that no one else in the Cabinet dares say. For instance, he recently decried why former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, based on records, had given out far bigger allocations to left-wing party-list representatives than to the district representatives. Seeking a justification for them, Gonzalez aired concern that these mostly cash releases from the PDAF could actually be the means allegedly being used against the government in the big rallies and demonstrations the Left has been able to muster lately. Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo was quoted as opining that Gonzalez "ought to have his head examined" for airing this suspicion, but the latter's remarks have struck an inquisitive chord in some commentators.

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For instance, at the height of the leftist rallies organized in time for the President's State of the Nation Address, I heard a pundit remark with some degree of facetiousness at the congressional reception that it looked like the Left had thrown all its resources for the year to marshal its forces on Metro Manila's streets, including trucking people from Central Luzon. Now the Left has to wait for new allocations again, said this pundit, who noted that the militants' banners and placards alone cost a lot of money.

* * *

The INQUIRER published a "profile of RP political map" yesterday, indicating the areas where GMA draws support, where there are moves for her resignation, and those that are neutral, based on the political affiliations of the key local executives. The map shows that the President enjoys overwhelming support, and this has been confirmed by statements of support from the League of Governors, currently chaired by Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson, the League of City Mayors, headed by Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, and the League of Municipal Mayors, headed by Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico. But I note certain errors such as the listing of Bukidnon Gov. Jose Zubiri and Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz in the "neutral" column. The fact is that Zubiri is among the Mindanao governors strongly batting for GMA, while his son Rep. Miguel Zubiri is among the leaders of the federalism movement on the big island. De la Cruz, on the other hand, has appeared on various forums affirming support for GMA.

Then, too, Iloilo province was listed in the "GMA Resign" column. But the fact is that while Gov. Neal Tupas is a Drilon loyalist, he remains in the minority. Four out of Iloilo's five provincial districts are occupied by GMA allies, with only Fifth District Rep. Rolex Suplico, a nephew of Tupas, in the opposition. Out of 43 municipal mayors, 32 are with GMA, aside from Iloilo City Mayor Treñas himself and the city's lone representative, Raul Gonzalez Jr. In fact, these 31 mayors came in full force to hear her Sona and were treated to a meal at the Palace State dining room.

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But despite the inaccuracies, the INQUIRER political map is a good indication of the overwhelming support that will be marshaled among the LGUs for Charter change and a shift to parliamentary/unicameralism and federalism. I can feel the zeal and eagerness of the LGUs, after 14 years of the Local Government Code, to effect this shift as it would empower them in a truly meaningful way, and make them more independent from the central government. The fact is that at the very least, GMA's Sona has given renewed impetus to the "great debate" over this issue. Backing the move for Charter change is a broad coalition of people and organizations across the land which are deeply committed to effecting it. One of them is the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines led by its national convenor Rey Magno Teves and Kalayaan College president Jose V. Abueva, who chairs its advisory board.

* * *

I dare say that the parliamentary/federal system is an idea whose time has come, and that it will be riding on the crest of the "LGU phenomenon." I myself am quite excited by this prospect of a decentralized system that will empower the countryside. The sad thing is that the senators are again bent on obstructing the move for Charter change for various reasons. The overriding reason may be that the senators fear the extinction of the Senate as people clamor for a unicameral legislature. Some senators have found a new excuse for thumbing it down by saying there's a need to finish the impeachment process first. Some of them argue that Charter change shouldn't be invoked in order to give GMA a "graceful exit." Indeed, it shouldn't be, as a new constitution has such far-reaching importance that goes beyond the political fate and life of GMA. The Senate has its excuse this time, just as last year and the year before, it was the need to address the economic situation. But as support for Charter change gathers steam, it would only make the Senate increasingly isolated and obsolete.

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Former NFA Chair Ray David faxed this column to opine that GMA's appointment of former Landbank president Gary Teves to head the Department of Finance is "widely welcomed." Said David: "Recognizing the difficult times, his acceptance of the position and responsibility will need the support of the entire nation if we are to survive this test. I pray that Secretary Teves will have the strength and fortitude to address the task that awaits him. But more than this, I believe that he deserves kudos for the yeoman's job he has done at Landbank. Under his watch, this special purpose bank finally shifted its portfolio from commercial loans to fulfill its mandate to serve the farmers and fisherfolk. I only hope his efforts to redirect Landbank's portfolio orientation will not be lost under future management."

Remembering Bulan

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF you are to watch only one performance during this season, then make sure it is "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos—The Musical." Written by Floy Quintos in 1991 as a dramatic play, "St. Louis" has metamorphosed into a musical, with libretto by Quintos and music by Antonio Africa, staged by Dulaang UP under the direction of Alexander Cortez, at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater.

I'm embarrassed to admit that I'd never seen the "straight play" version of "St. Louis," despite fervid intentions to do so during its original run in 1992 and a re-staging in 1998. But I can understand how the play would strike some people as "*mabigat*" (heavy), fraught with post-colonial angst and historical regrets. In their program notes, Quintos and Cortez describe the original material as "political, issue-oriented, even didactic."

Paradoxically, adapting the play into a musical both lightens the material and deepens its emotional impact. Sung, the sentiments of Bulan, the Bagobo chieftain who travels to the St. Louis World Trade Exposition of 1904 to "do something great," attain both poignancy and nobility. The music lifts the material from the merely political to the movingly human, imbuing Bulan and the other historical characters in the play with personal histories with which we can identify and empathize.

Indeed, at the close of "St. Louis" I found myself sobbing into a handkerchief, weeping not only for Bulan and his heart-wrenching descent from tribal nobility to rootless bum, but for all of us Filipinos and our thwarted dreams and aspirations.

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"ST. LOUIS" re-creates the historical past while demonstrating its enduring links to the present. Even as we struggle to deal with our ambivalence toward migration and overseas work, we are reminded that the diaspora began with a group of "tribal" Filipinos shipped to St. Louis to serve as living artifacts of our "exotic" and "savage" land.

They were soon followed by Filipino pensionados, scholars from the privileged class, as well as by more numerous migrant workers, who toiled in the pineapple and sugarcane fields of Hawaii (where they are now observing their centennial), the fruit and vegetable farms of California, and the tuna canning factories of Seattle and Alaska.

While the majority of Filipino-Americans today are professionals, composing the most upwardly mobile of Asian migrant populations, the community's humbler origins have been until lately obscured and ignored. This same division of class and social origins is reflected in "St. Louis," where the illustrados Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero and Antonio Paterno, who sit in the Exposition committee, decry the representation of the Filipino race by "savages." Rightly, they recognize the tribal delegation as an attempt by Dean Worcester, representing the colonial authorities, to subvert the Filipinos' attempt to gain independence by proving how such a "backward" people need America's educating and civilizing influence.

And yet in Guerrero and Paterno, we sense a basic contempt for indigenous, non-Christian culture and a typical class bias against those who are materially poorer and different. They proclaim themselves nationalists but are embarrassed by anything that would paint Filipinos as different from and thus somehow inferior to white Westerners. Their belief in the benefits of "reconstruction," or "civilization," is in fact one shared with the colonialists they so loudly condemn.

* * *

INTO THIS political conflict steps Datu Bulan the Bagobo chieftain, who falls for the blandishments of an American agent not so much for the dollars offered but for the chance to do one great deed for which he will be remembered by his people in their songs and their epics.

To Bulan and his wife Momayon, the chance to travel, to cross the vast ocean and set foot in America, would be their chance to show the rest of the world the glory of Bagobo culture while gathering impressions, information and education they could bring back to their people.

There is in the program a picture of the actual Datu Bulan, standing proud and fierce in his tribal finery and resplendent with his "long luxuriant" hair, looking, as another character notes, "princely."

Miguel Castro as Bulan is the heart of this musical, and he embodies the Bagobo noble's dignity and innocence. A senior company member of Gantimpala Theatre Foundation, Castro exhibits such confidence and presence it's a wonder he hasn't been discovered for bigger roles in the entertainment circuit yet. This surely is his break-out role.

Also noteworthy: Leo Rialp as the kindly scholar Gustavo Niederlein; Jake Macapagal as Fred, the present-day Fil-American narrator who unearths and re-creates Bulan's story (his duet with Bulan is positively hair-raising!); Mae Ann Valentin as Momayon; Agnes Garcia Barredo as Maude, the fat lady at the circus for whom Bulan falls after Momayon's death; Ronan Capinding as Fred's grandpa, a former farm worker who once encountered Bulan; and Donato Karingal as Antonio, the pragmatic Igorot.

* * *

NOTES Quintos and Cortez: "The duration of the rehearsals and production has been set against a political climate of despair and distrust, of opportunism and doubt. How indeed, does one mount a show when all around, the very fabric of our society is tearing apart?"

In this "St. Louis" is both escape and context, sweeping us away from everyday vexations while explaining why we find ourselves, again and again, in such crises. So we take heart from Bulan's words: "Hold your head high/be proud to show your face/eyes to the sky/remembering your race/there is no shame in shouting out your name/even if others should shame you/betray you and leave you,/Remember…remember."

Filipino hospitality

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TWO young naval cadets, Leonard Sargent and W.B. Wilcox (the latter was the paymaster of Adm. George Dewey), spent the months of October and November 1898 traveling around Luzon at a time when the United States had not yet made up its mind whether or not to hold on to the Philippines. The provisional government of Aguinaldo held sway in the seven provinces of Luzon visited by the young men.

Filipinos were observed embracing every opportunity to entertain and fete visiting strangers (some things, I guess, never change). We were fond of display and pomp, ceremonies and the glitter of processions. (*Ouch!*) Whether it was the hut of a peasant or the mansion of the rich, both were open to the traveler. A foreigner or native was never turned away at the door. One was welcome to come in and join a family meal without being asked who he was, where he came from or where he was going. At nightfall, he could join the rest of the family in their one-room hut in the common sleeping room. The houses had no bolts or locks. (The world being what it is, we have since gotten older and wiser, no longer as trusting as 100 years ago.)

Their three days in Ilagan, Isabela, introduced the cadets to Filipino hospitality that had them pleasantly surprised. Although Cagayan Valley was in the remoter areas of Luzon, the evidence of the labor and care that had been expended on its development was evident. (Although the writer doesn't bother to mention it, the Cagayan area was under the Dominicans.) There were few nipa huts and most of the buildings were of brick and wood.

Music, even if it varied, was the one constant in their entertainment. We are told that the Tagalogs were seen as natural musicians and every village had its orchestra or band. In the evenings, the people would turn out to enjoy the music. Even little boys and girls as young as five or six played the harp, the guitar or the piano. Their ear for music was intuitive and instinctive.

At 6 p.m., a hush would fall over the town and in every house, father, mother and children would kneel before the image of some saint and intone the Angelus. Once the devotions were over, each child brought the hand of his father and mother to his forehead as a sign of respect and wished them good evening. He then made an obeisance to each of his brothers and sisters as well as to any guest present, repeating his salutation with a bow.

During their visits, the village band was usually called in to play well into the night while the two cadets were entertained by the *cabezas*. In the town of Cordon two young girls, no more than 11 and 12, danced a minuet and sung for them. Their encore was a Spanish love song. Two other young girls joined them and together, they danced the *contrabandista* using castanets. A guitar and a flute supplied the music and sometimes an old man who it turned out was the dancing master of the village.

Despite the crisis on hand, a ball was hosted in their honor in Ilagan where the people dressed in European fashion. While the people realized the gravity of the situation, they did not forget "their duties as hosts"! Between dances, two or three guests would sing and the rest would join them in a chorus. The party lasted till three in the morning.

On the second evening, two one-act plays in Spanish were presented by young people of the town. The usual bamboo structure had been set up but with curtains, lights and scenery. Although the town had a population of only 15,000, two Spanish operas were also presented by the young people. Within the limits of the town, Spanish prisoners had full liberty, with the exception of the friars who were confined to their convent since it was considered "too dangerous" for them to be roaming around.

During their stay, Sargent and Wilcox lived with the mayor whose house was "of great size, and was built of magnificent hardwood from the neighboring forest." Two bedrooms and a salon with highly polished floors and windows on two sides containing a piano and bamboo furniture were turned over to them. On the walls of the salon were two tall mirrors, old fashioned paintings and framed paper flowers.

Night after night, sumptuous dinners were prepared. The host employed three cooks, each of whom presided over the preparation of one of the three dinners given in honor of the visitors. The shortest banquet consisted of 15 courses. In addition to the usual pork and chicken, there were games of all sorts including doves, snipes, deer, mountain buffalo and boar.

In other towns, these dinners were thankfully limited to a mere eight dishes.

Dinner was served shortly after noon, followed by the siesta. The next meal was not until 9 in the evening, but there was merienda about three hours earlier of chocolate and native cakes made from coconut and sugar. While there was *tuba* from the sap of the nipa palm, imported wines were served in the homes of ilustrados.

The two young travelers found the residents of Manila unpleasant (but warned the traveler not to prejudge the rest of the population). But as a whole, the rural folk were described as "hospitable and kind-hearted." What they had they shared and felt insulted if one offered to pay. Travelers were treated as guest and hotels were unnecessary. (In many ways we haven't changed at all.)

(G. Wheeler, "Our Islands & Their People," 1899)

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Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Simple joys

YOUNG BLOOD

Mavic V. Mones

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THERE are many things in life I truly enjoy. Like watching a fantastic movie. Or looking at a beautiful sunset. Or simply playing with my cute *pamangkins*. Or going over the pages of our photo albums.

But there is one thing that I am truly fond of doing. I find it overwhelming—a better word perhaps is awesome. Or simply profoundly sweet. It's a totally different experience that I immensely enjoy!

It is not going to a spectacular summer getaway or going on a wild trip to an exotic place or even visiting a wonderful island somewhere in the Philippines. Also it's not a new sport or a newly discovered delightful menu. I am talking about giving foot spa service to my parents—in my own simple and loving way.

I am not an expert in massage but believe it or not my parents have the fun of their lives when I give them a foot scrub and massage.

My father is 58 years old, a retired employee. For a long time he had gone to so many places delivering medicines to different medical companies and drugstores. Now, he cannot walk straight anymore. His tired, aching feet need more love and care. He just loves to feed the chickens. He doesn't like to go to parlors for he easily gets tired when he walks.

My mother is 60 years old, a retired public school teacher.. She is one woman who delights on simplicity. Her favorite hobby now is gardening.

My parents' daily schedule nowadays revolve around feeding the chickens and the dogs and taking care of the plants. They are simple people with simple joys.

Whenever I go home to the province, this wonderful couple will boil water, prepare the basin, get the foot scrub and oil from my room right away. They don't have to say anything. They just sheepishly smile at me. And I understand already what they want.

As I start to scrub my father's feet, my heart leaps for joy. I remember the time when I was a little girl and both of them would bathe me and massage my whole body as they sang a lullaby. They would powder my whole body afterwards and cut my fingernails and toenails. It's one of my sweetest memories of my childhood.

Today, the roles are reversed. I would ask them to get their favorite chair and play their favorite music while I wash their feet. And it is our grand moment! Both of them giggle as I pour lotion on their toes to end the task.

The thankful remarks after such sessions are the next best thing to seeing how happy I have made them. They are satisfied customers. And these are our bonding moments.

Usually we have a nice dinner afterwards, after father cooks his *tinola* and mother makes her *pinakbet*. Both are my favorite dishes which I really crave when I am in Manila. The *tinola*'s broth is very tasty because father uses only a native chicken. And mother's *pinakbet* is made from vegetables freshly picked from our garden.

Sometimes when I get down on my knees to wash their feet, I am reminded of the time Jesus washed the feet of His 12 disciples. It was a demonstration not only of His great humility but also of His great love for them.

I feel such humbling experience when I am scrubbing my parents' feet, but at the same time I also feel an unexplainable sense of fulfillment. Maybe Jesus was also smiling in contentment after He washed the feet of His disciples to show His deep love for them.

Our once-a-month foot spa session is also my own little way of telling my mother and father how much I love them. Life indeed is beautiful when I have these special moments with my parents. Learning from their simple lives already fills me with joy. I'm very thankful that I still have such opportunities to be with them and learn from them.

They had a hard time adjusting to their new, more relaxed lifestyle now. They are some of the most hardworking people I know. They are used to work. This can be seen in their calloused hands and feet. And that is one of the reasons they thoroughly enjoy the foot spa sessions with me. Though they may not have enough money to splurge on a grand vacation or even just a trip to Boracay, I believe they are very happy in their retirement.

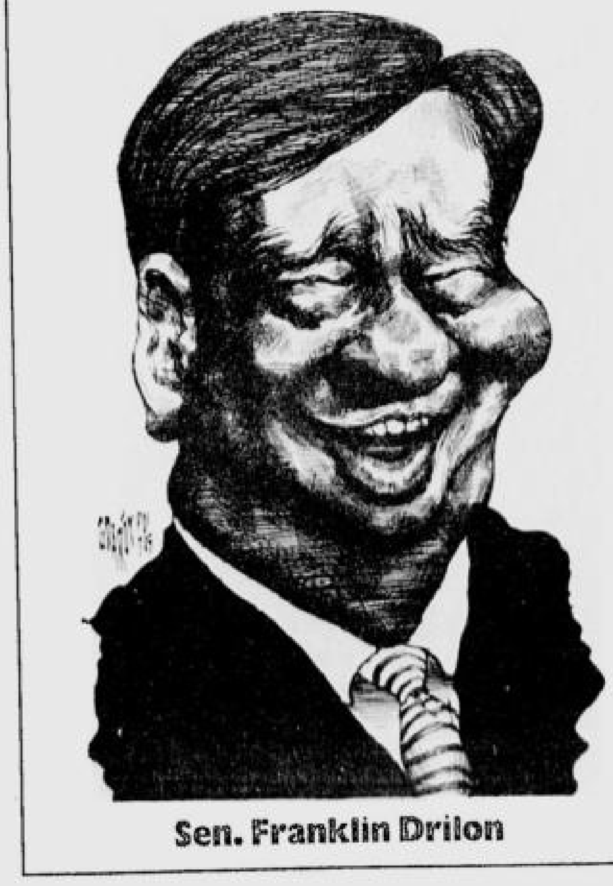
Every time I visit them, I would see them massaging each others back while singing their favorite songs. Such scenes melt my heart.

They seem to love living in utmost simplicity. They always tell me that simple acts done with the family and with love were life's greatest joys.

Their simple ways will be something that I will remember for the rest of my life. I'm following their example through the simple services I give them. And I intend to pass it on to my own family, too.

Mavic V. Mones, 28, is taking her master's in broadcasting at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

IN THE NEWS



Sen. Franklin Drilon

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Resolve the crucial conflicts

I'M glad Cesar Purisima et al. resigned, but I'm not glad about their continued call for the expanded value-added tax. It tells me they do not want systemic and substantive change; they only want to replace Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Noli de Castro who is, of course, expected to take the same International Monetary Fund/World Bank-dictated economic track that GMA has taken (as did Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada before her), thus taking us deeper and deeper into debt. In other words, Purisima, like Cory, Franklin Drilon and the Makati Business Club (the July 8 gang) are for the status quo, not real changes.

The propaganda that our "economic fundamentals are sound" is all crap. There's nothing sound about the endless borrowing. OFW remittances are the only thing that's been keeping the economy afloat, but at what cost to our families and children?

What would be sound is when the elite, who invest their millions abroad, start investing here at home; when they start ploughing back business profits into the local economy instead of piling them up in foreign banks.

Flashback. In 1986, the crucial conflict was not between Cory and Marcos (the dictator was a goner, from Day 2 when the people stopped his tanks). The crucial conflict was between Cory and Juan Ponce Enrile. Cory wanted nothing to do with Ninoy's jailer. Enrile for his part was convinced he was more capable of running a nation. In the end, Enrile had to give way because the people would have turned their backs on him if he had refused to support Cory. In the end, Cory too had to give way, she had to appoint Enrile her defense secretary.

Today, the crucial conflict is not between GMA and the opposition forces: slowly but surely GMA is on her way out, whether by resignation, impeachment, or people power. The crucial conflict is within the opposition block, between the pro-*masa* faction (represented by the likes of Susan Roces, Dodong Nemenzo, Satur Ocampo, Etta Rosales, Ed de la Torre, Fr. Joe Dizon and, maybe, Brother Eddie Villanueva) and the pro-elite/status-quo faction (represented by Cory, Purisima, the Makati Business Club, the Liberal Party, Fortunato Abat? Jejomar Binay? Ping Lacson? Jovito Salonga? Francis Escudero? Estrada? Code-NGO? FVR?).

There has to be a resolution of conflicts, a reaching out across lines into a space where all factions can come together, rise above selfish interests and reconcile differences for the sake of the common good—to hammer out an intelligent, creative, doable and sustainable agenda with a highly Filipino bias.

If De Castro wants to be part of it, he will have to say so, and unequivocably distance himself from the Arroyo administration, the sooner, the better.

Meanwhile, I am all for impeachment proceedings. I want the whole story. Who wiretapped Garci? Is Vidal Doble a liar? Who put up the money? If Congress fails us, then there's always people power. One way or another, we would be informed enough to make up our own minds, and a critical mass would be angry enough to finally hit the streets. Edsa, Ayala, wherever.

—ANGELA STUART-SANTIAGO,
santi@surfshop.net.ph

No discrimination vs tribal kids

ON BEHALF of The Indigenous Host Communities Association Inc. (Tihcaposi) group, may I react to the article titled, "Mining firm sued for discrimination vs tribal kids" (PDI, 7/10/05) written by Vincent Cabreza of PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, particularly to the statement: "Twenty-one parents asked the NCIP to intervene because of supposed evidence that the firm allowed only one group of indigenous Filipino children to enroll this school year at Philex-subsidized elementary and high schools, at the expense of children from Ifugao, Mt. Province and Cagayan."

If the group being referred to is the Tihcaposi (Philex Outlying Sitios) Inc., then, it is absolutely necessary to inform those concerned that the members and officers of this group are from the sitios of the surrounding barangays of Philex Mines, specifically, Camp 1 and Camp 3, Tuba; and Ampucao, Itogon, Province of Benguet. These members are the bona fide residents who are the siblings or grandchildren of the original indigenous inhabitants of the outlying sitios of Philex Mines. They have been living in these areas before the operation of Philex Mines. These tribes happen to be the Ibalois and Kallanguyas of Benguet most of whom are from the localities which are directly affected by the operations of Philex Mines.

The Mining Law is clear, and it should explain why Philex Mines has to allow the children of this group to enroll at its elementary and high schools.

I hope this letter would clarify the issue.

—JULIE N. PANAWAN,
president,
The Indigenous Host
Communities Association Inc.
(Tihcaposi), Philex Mining Corp.,
Padcal, Tuba, Benguet

A national blessing

THE SERIES of events confronting Filipinos is part of the winnowing process.

"Juetenggate" and the "Gloriagate" revealed the true characters of our leaders: Bishop Oscar Cruz who reflects a genuine and altruistic concern for the truth; the leaders of the Catholic schools and the bishops who are like bats and fence-sitters; the group of Ignacio Bunye and Michael Defensor who are true-blooded operators and mercenaries; former President Ramos and Jose de Venecia, who are forever traditional politicians, whose supreme cause is their personal interests.

And there are the other personalities who have been exposed and revealed; they will eventually guide the Filipinos in making their political choices.

The crisis facing the Filipinos has in a way blessed them. It is denouement that could only come from Divine Providence.

—V. EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA,
3/F Gonzales Bldg.,
Pioneer Avenue,
General Santos City

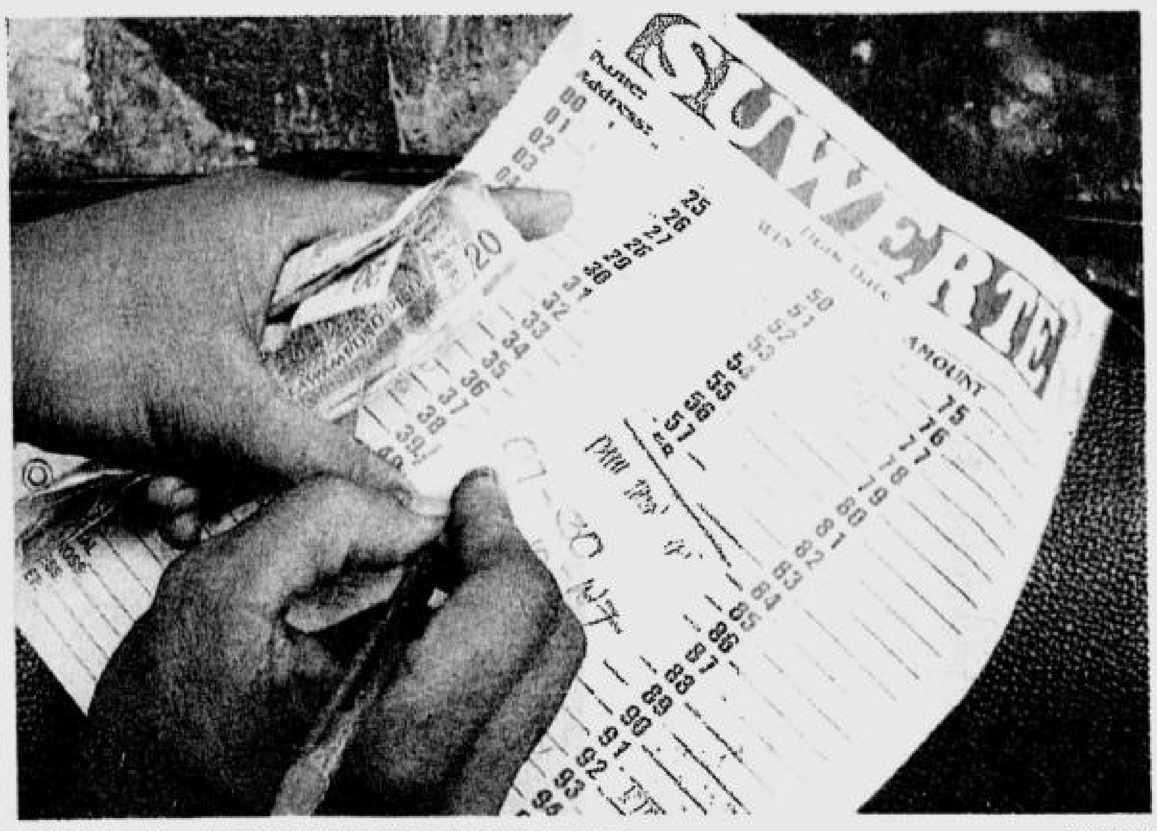
'Resign all' is best solution

THE BEST solution to the country's ills is "resign all"—from the President down to the barangay officials—then hold general elections with the Supreme Court (excluding the Sandiganbayan and justice department) as the Commission on Elections. Deputize AFP personnel as board of inspectors and PNP personnel as watchers; a shootout between these two groups in the precinct would be more heroic than the risking of their lives to protect GMA from the people instead of the other way around.

After the election, forget Gloriagate and Garci, forget the FVR centennial scam, forget JDV's prime minister ambition, forget "juetenggate" (now that the Arroyos are "sacrificing" in the land of honey), forget Chavit Singson's "lying through his teeth," forget the bishops' way of forgiving without restitution, forget the governors and mayors' fear of ouster when GMA steps down, forget about ex-presidents who think they are still presidents, forget all useless probes, and start all over again—under a new system that the new government will be tasked to chart.

This nation needs total repair. And not one of the repair kits offered so far is not suspect of protecting vested interests.

—LORENZO M. DE LA SERNA,
secretary general,
Mindanao Independence
Movement, 32 Yacapin St.,
Cagayan de Oro City



JUAN de la Cruz tries his luck in an illegal numbers game

PDI PHOTO

Gambling is gambling even if it's legalized

JUETENG has become an explosive political scandal for the second time in the history of the Philippines. The first time, it brought down the presidency of Joseph Estrada. This time, under the Arroyo administration, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, presidential son Mikey Arroyo and presidential brother-in-law Iggy Arroyo have been accused of accepting jueteng payoffs.

Gambling is a game of chance. Some people gamble just for the fun of it or just to pass the time. Others gamble simply to try their luck. Whether played for fun or for luck, gambling is still gambling even if there are laws legalizing it.

But gambling is rampant everywhere in our country. Young and old, men and women gamble their money, property or lives. Worst, youngsters gamble. Losing hundreds, thousands and millions of pesos in cash or in kind is of no importance to them. They do not care about the bad effects of gambling, and before they know it they are already hooked to it.

Gambling, like prostitution, numbs the sense of morality and decency of our country and people, especially our young. It erodes the values of society. Gambling should have been stopped earlier before it became rampant in our country. Because of gambling our country is again in chaos.

We must always remember that our youth and children of today will lead our world tomorrow. If we want them to be good leaders, then let us be a good model for them to emulate, so that they will live decent lives in a dignified society.

—TERESITA LOURDES
B. PAQUEO-ANDOY,
Telaje, Tandag,
Surigao del Sur

GMA can step aside, not necessarily down

I WAS the first perhaps to ask GMA to resign, as a review of press accounts will show.

It was in San Beda that I, as an English major, learned about Dante supposedly saying that the hottest place in hell is reserved for those who in a time of crisis remain neutral.

Nixon resigned under pressure. Nothing was wrong with that.

I prefer a peaceful, constitutional and least divisive solution. That was my stand in 2001 as I heeded Justice Celing Palma. (You do not scuttle a constitutional mode simply because you lose a vote after democratic debate and discourse.) That is my stand now. If GMA fears prosecution, Art. VII, Sec. 11 may be invoked as a compromise. She is unable to govern and can make a written declaration to that effect. (I realize the framers might have been thinking only of sickness such as that suffered by Ferdinand Marcos. But the constitutional text supports an interpretation such as the situation GMA finds herself in now.) Then she can go on leave, and Noli de Castro takes over. She steps aside and not down.

On the tapes, the ones with the motive, opportunity and means to wiretap were the Arroyos themselves, who did not trust Virgilio Garcillano with his *dagdag-bawas* background. He was not one to be trusted. He had been denounced by Christian Monsod and Nene Pimentel. Yet, GMA, knowing his expertise, nominated him, not once, but seven times! The first thing he quickly did was to declare Bedan Fernando Poe Jr. an alien.

GMA should now leave for the United States and join Mike who now looks as if he abandoned his wife in a time of trouble. It is incredible that virtually the only concrete step she took was to "exile" Mike.

Impeachment is not an option; what GMA did is done by many other congressmen, who will not condemn what they do. How Mike Defensor can blast what he benefited from in 2001 is odd. Erap's guilt still has to be proven, but he is in jail and the second envelope was not even introduced by the prosecution in the ongoing trial because it was harmless.

Where does San Beda stand?

—R.A.V. SAGUISAG,
ravslaw@mozcom.com

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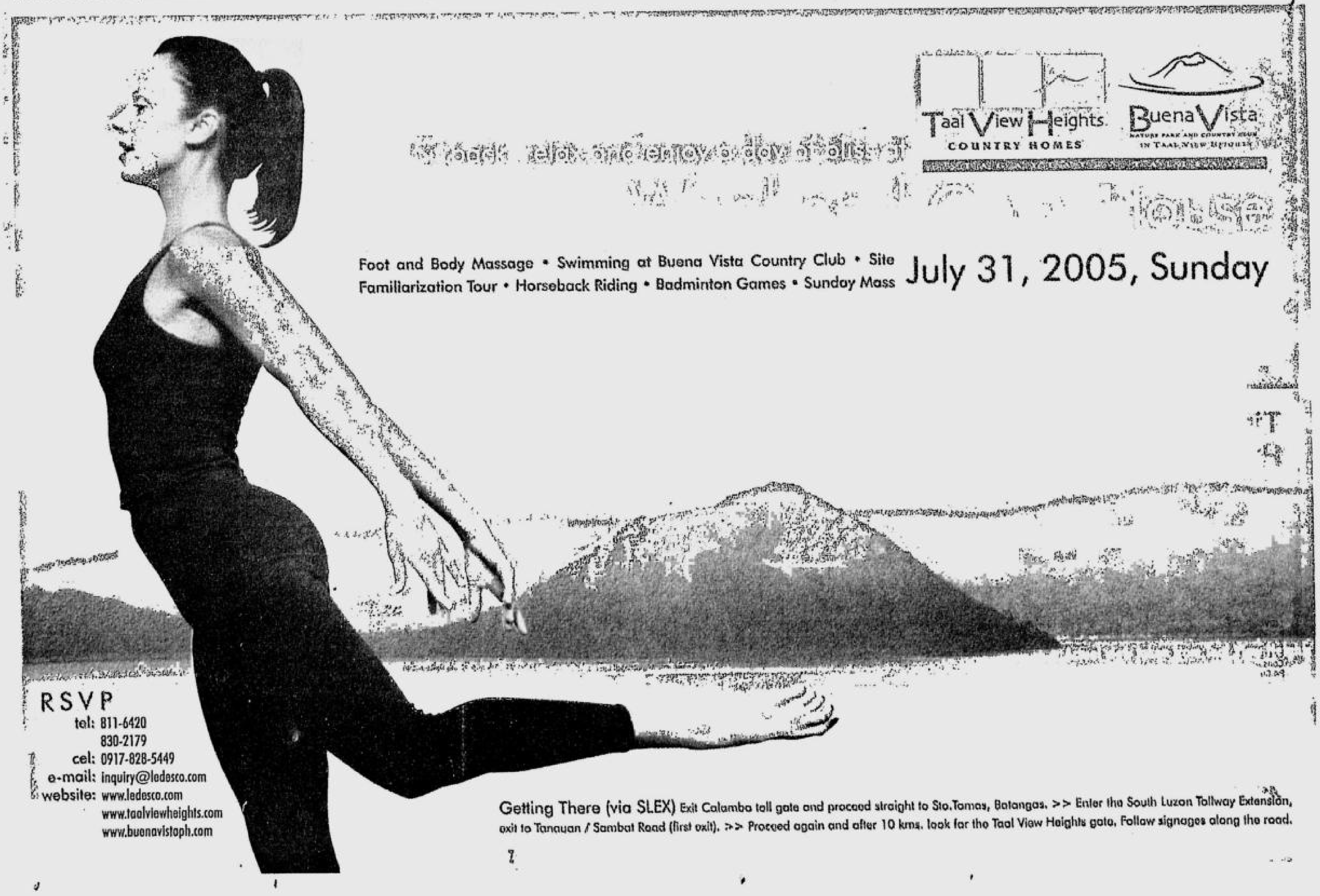
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Dengue downs 5,000 in 1st half of year, DOH says

By Christian V. Esguerra

DENGUE has taken ill more than 5,000 Filipinos during the first half of the year, way before the months when cases were perennially high, according to the Department of Health.

From Jan. 1 to June 15, the DOH National Epidemiology Center recorded at least 5,396 cases, 41 percent higher than those documented during the same period last year. Of the victims, 73 died.

Dr. Vito Roque Jr., chief of the center's surveillance unit, yesterday said the number was not expected to drop until November or December when dengue is fully contained.

"We're expecting more cases that's why we're strengthening our surveillance," he said in a press conference.

Region 10 recorded the most cases with 1,242 followed by the National Capital Region with 965, Caraga with 683, Region 3 with 603, and Region 7 with 579.

The youngest victim was a month old while the oldest was 86, DOH records showed.

The data were yet to include the victims in a number of areas where there was reportedly a dengue outbreak.

Roque said authorities were confirming the reported outbreak in San Miguel, Bulacan and Tadian, Mt. Province.

In General Tinio town in Nueva Ecija, at least 117 children got afflicted with the disease, according to Health Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto.

ROMY HOMILLADA/PDI PHOTO

A MAN sprays insecticide in Barangay Guitnangbayan in San Mateo, Rizal as an anti-dengue measure.

As many as 170 cases were recorded in Zamboanga City from June 26 to July 2, Roque said. Seventy-six more got sick from July 17 to 23, he said.

Three children have died of dengue fever in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, since last week and 110 more people, mostly children, have contracted the disease in the town since January this year.

Dr. Juliet Caballero, General Tinio health officer, said this was the first time that the town recorded a big number of dengue cases in four years.

In 2001, she said, 60 cases were reported but with no death.

She said only a few cases were reported from 2002 to 2004 in the town, which lies at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Caballero identified the fatalities as Sherwin Bote, 6, and Dana Manuel, 7, who died last week, and Baby Girl Lazaro, 6, who died on Tuesday.

The victims in General Tinio brought to four the number of fatalities from dengue in Nueva Ecija this year. The first reported dengue fatality was Roxanne Soriano, 12, of Barangay Baloy in Cuyapo town.

Dr. Benjamin Lopez, Nueva Ecija provincial officer, said the province recorded 167 dengue cases this year, the bulk of which was reported in General Tinio.

In Pangasinan, the town council of Binalonan declared the town under a state of calamity on Monday after six people there were confirmed to have been afflicted with dengue fever.

But Mayor Ramon Guico said he was surprised by the declaration, saying he would veto the resolution.

Guico said the number of cases was not yet alarming to warrant the declaration of an outbreak or to put the town under a state of calamity. *With reports from Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rebs support postponement of ARMM polls

KORONADAL CITY—Muslim rebels and former Moro guerrillas said they were backing moves to defer the holding of the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

On Thursday, the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), asked Congress and the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to consider deferring the elections.

"We welcome it as far as making the elections clean. Our position would facilitate the amendment of RA 9054 because it does not coincide with the final peace agreement we forged with the Philippine government," Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front, told the INQUIRER.

RA 9045 is the law that created the expanded ARMM.

It was passed when the MNLF signed a peace deal with the government in 1996.

Sema said majority of the people in the region also reject the exercise.

"Why are they in a hurry to conduct the election when majority of the people rejects the polls?" he said.

"The ARMM is like a food contaminated by Congress. The government and MNLF cooked a good food before but it was made impure by our lawmakers. Unless the government amends RA 9054, we will not partake (of it) because we cannot accept it," Sema said.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said Namfrel has a basis in asking Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to work for the suspension of the elections.

"They have basis because they are talking about cleansing illegal registrants in the region," Kabalu said.

But Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong said there was legal basis for the holding of the elections.

"The legal basis for holding the election remains up to this day the RA 9054, which is the expanded autonomy law for Muslim Mindanao," he said.

Datumanong, however, declined to comment further on the issue saying it was sub judice to discuss it.

He said there is a pending petition filed at the Supreme Court for the postponement or cancellation of the polls.

The Liberal Party, headed by Senate President Franklin Drilon, has asked the Commission on Elections to revamp election personnel in the ARMM following reports that they were involved in vote-rigging in the 2004 elections. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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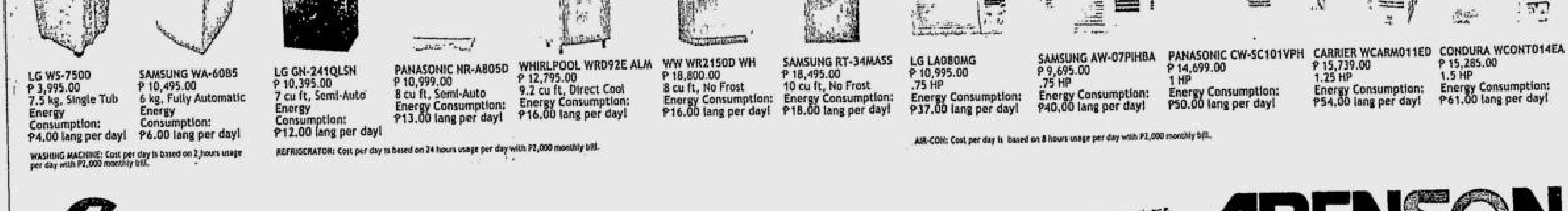

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MILF extends permit for Sayyaf manhunt

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agreed to the military's request to extend the manhunt for Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani near rebel territories in Maguindanao.

With this development, the MILF also said its forces were ordered to continue staying away from the path of the operations, particularly in Guindulungan town.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said MILF fighters would stay out of Camp Bader until today.

"By Sunday, our forces will march back to their base in Camp Bader," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

It was the third extension that both sides agreed upon as the US-trained Army Special Forces, backed by soldiers from the 6th Infantry Division, continued its pursuit operations against about 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Janjalani.

Based on the military's claim, Janjalani and his forces were hiding in the borders of Guindulungan, Talayan and North and South Upi.

Kabalu said they want "to avoid a misencounter with the soldiers."

"All in the name of peace … we agreed to leave our camp and to dispel speculations that we are coddling and giving sanctuary to the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Some 300 families have fled their homes in the four towns for fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

Social workers and relief agencies have already sent in relief assistance, according to Secretary Bainon Karon of the ARMM social welfare office.

Col. Franklin del Prado, 6th ID spokesperson, said military operations would continue until all the bandits shall have been flushed out.

However, Kabalu said the military should speed up the operation because many MILF members, who moved out of their areas, were already restive. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ONE, says the military, is dead and the other one is marked for liquidation. File photo of Abu Sayyaf leaders Abu Sabaya (left) and Khadaffy Janjalani (right). RAFFY TIMA/AFP

WORKING CLASS DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Armed with their toolbox, street smart shoeshine boys roam the streets of Cagayan de Oro City looking for shoes to clean and money to earn.

Korean firm to drop project over unpaid bill

BUGUIAS, Benguet—The Korean firm rehabilitating the 85-km Halsema Highway here has threatened to slow down or suspend the completion of the highway's unfinished portions if the government will not pay it more than P58 million representing its accomplished work.

In a letter to the Department of Public Works and Highways on July 11, In Kyu Kang, project manager of Daewoo E & C Co. Ltd., said the company is determined to suspend work if its demand will not be met within a month.

Informed of this development, Gov. Borromeo Melchor said the DPWH must immediately pay Daewoo.

"But I urge Daewoo not to stop work so the highway will be finished according to schedule," Melchor said.

The highway's rehabilitation started in July 2001 and was expected to be completed in September. However, the contractor asked the DPWH for the project's extension until March 2006.

"The payments were always deferred even though the accomplishments were certified, approved and recommended for payment by the consultant," In's letter said.

In was referring to Claude Allouche, the French consultant hired by the World Bank to oversee the P1 billion project.

In said the unpaid amount represented the accumulated cost of accomplished works since September 2004.

"If our billings will not be paid or there is no guarantee of payment through the approval of supplemental agreement No. 2 within a month from now, we will slow down drastically or file for the suspension of the project in accordance with our contract," he said.

Halsema Highway, known as the Baguio–Bontoc-Banaue national road, traverses Benguet's major vegetable producing towns of La Trinidad, Tublay, Atok and Buguias.

As of June 30 this year, Daewoo had finished 82 percent of the project.

In said the company had asked the DPWH to approve the realignment of P183 million for the repair of critical areas in Barangays Sinipsip, Pilando and Pakpakitan in Buguias and Barangays Ambassador and Capongga in Tublay.

The request for realignment was contained in a document called supplemental agreement No. 2, which was already given to DPWH.

In's letter said the huge amount of the deferred payments had disrupted the cash flow of the company.

The INQUIRER saw a notice posted at the company's office in Barangay Sinipsip here informing workers that their salary for July 30 would be given on Aug. 6 due to financial problems.

"It is difficult for us to proceed working without any assurance of payment on completed work," In's letter said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

50 stranded in damaged fishing boat rescued in Negros waters

BACOLOD CITY—At least 50 persons on board a fishing vessel bound for Cebu from Palawan were rescued Wednesday, hours after it was stranded in waters off Cadiz City in Negros Occidental on Wednesday night.

The stranded passengers, mostly fishermen and their families, were on board a pump boat that was damaged after heavy rains and waves hit it against rocks about half a kilometer from Lakawon Island Resort off the coast of Cadiz City.

A pump boat of the Negros Sea Rescue and Ecological Foundation, which found the damaged fishing vessel named Don Joemark, brought the stranded passengers to the Lakawon Island Resort where they were fed and provided shelter, according to Victor Puey, who runs the resort.

Among those rescued was Dionisio Arapol, the owner of the fishing boat, Arapol's wife, several fishermen and their families, Puey said.

The vessel was sailing from Palawan to Cebu City when heavy rains and strong winds struck it, causing damage to some parts of the vessel, Puey said.

He said the 70-feet, two-engine fishing boat was taking a short cut in the waters of Cadiz City when heavy rains diverted it from its route. The heavy waves and strong winds probably slammed the vessel against the rocks and reefs in the area, he said.

He said the passengers identified themselves as fishermen from Mactan, Cebu City who went to Palawan together with their families to fish. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Floods destroy P23M in crops

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The flooding that hit four towns and a city in the fourth district of Negros Occidental early this week has destroyed at least P23 million worth of crops and infrastructure.

The death toll caused by the floods has also risen to three with the reported death of Ryan Tabrubias, 20, who drowned Wednesday inside his flooded house at Barangay Crossing in the town of Pulupandan, according to town mayor Luis Mondia.

Two of the flooded towns, San Enrique and Pulupandan, have already been declared in a state of calamity by their local councils while officials in Valladolid were set to make a similar declaration today.

Floods that hit San Enrique, Pontevedra, Pulupandan and Valladolid towns, and Bago City displaced 5,501 families or 32,782 persons but water was beginning to subside in most areas yesterday, the Provincial Social Welfare Office (PSWO) reported.

San Enrique Mayor Jilson Tubillara yesterday estimated the flood damage to rice crops in his town reached P4,441,740.

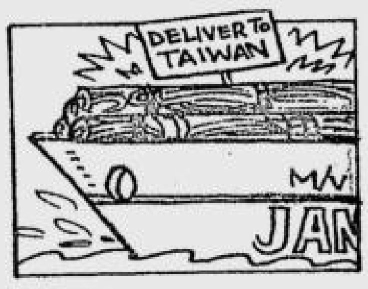
ROUNDUP

Mayor's son cleared

KORONADAL CITY—Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez cleared a son of Tampakan, South Cotabato Mayor Claudius Barroso for the death last year of Gregorio Banal, his father's political rival. In his nine-page resolution issued earlier this month, Gonzalez said the evidence against Bienvenido Barroso, 30, and another suspect, was weak. Gonzalez directed the South Cotabato provincial prosecutor to withdraw the complaint against the suspects and make a report. On June 28 last year, three motorcycle riding men shot dead Banal at the Poblacion of Tampakan. Witnesses tagged Barroso as one of the suspects. "We are happy because the truth came out … we have nothing to do with the death of Mr. Banal," Bienvenido told the INQUIRER.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Hot' logs seized



DAVAO CITY—Philippine Navy elements and members of the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources recently intercepted a Taiwan-bound vessel carrying illegal logs in Quidapil Point in Maguindanao. Commodore Rogelio Calunsag, commander of the Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao, said that MV Janet XIV was intercepted on July 19. He said 11 crew members had been arrested while 440 pieces of round logs of assorted species and 400 pieces of lumber were seized and were brought to the headquarters of the task force in General Santos City. The task force is headed by retired Army general Alfonso Dagudag. "In the past, we have also intercepted vessels carrying illegal logs for other countries," Calunsag said.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Suspected reb slain

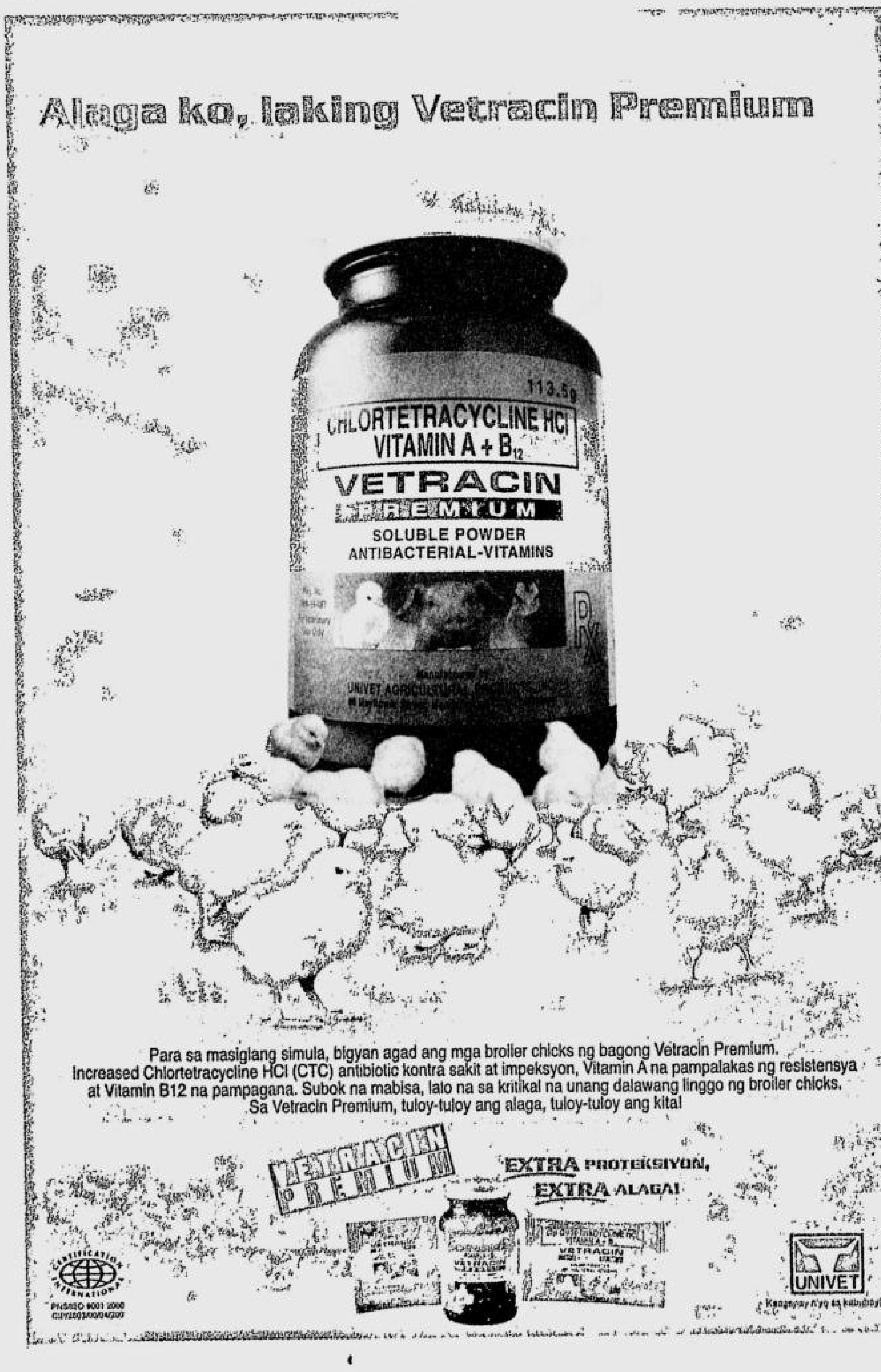
TARLAC CITY—A suspected New People's Armey rebel was killed in an encounter with government soldiers in San Jose City on Thursday afternoon. Capt. Ruel Rombaoa, public information officer of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said the gunfight broke out after soldiers belonging to the 71st Infantry Battalion raided a rebel camp in Barangay Villa Joson at 3:30 p.m. Rombaoa said the soldiers engaged at least 18 rebels led by one Ka Tani.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Japanese found dead

CALAMBA CITY—The body of a Japanese national was dumped along a barangay road in Sto. Tomas, Batangas on Thursday night. Supt. Raul Tacaca, Sto. Tomas town police chief, identified the victim as Takaaki Yushina, 41, a native of Taitoku, Asakusa, Japan. Tacaca said a resident called up the police station at around 11:30 p.m. and informed the police that they found a cadaver along a dirt road in Barangay San Bartolome. He said Yushina's body bore a single bullet wound in the head. Tacaca said their initial investigation revealed that a few hours before he was found dead, Yushina left the Diamond Hotel in Malate, Manila with business partner Yoichi Muramatsu. He said they were able to contact Muramatsu after police investigators found his calling card from the wallet of the victim. Muramatsu told police that he and the victim hired a cab from their hotel to a mall in Malate. "When Muramatsu alighted from the taxi, the victim told him to go ahead as he would visit his girlfriend in an undisclosed place to give her money. That was the last time the victim was seen alive," Tacaca told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau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Leyte's Dr. Mango

This physician raises the sweetest mangoes in Leyte and Samar

DR. LEO Pastor shows the fruits of his labor in his mango orchard in Palompon, Leyte.
VEN LABRO

By Vicente S. Labro
Palompon, Leyte

TALK about mango with Dr. Leo Pastor, and you get the impression that the physician is also firmly rooted in agriculture.

Pastor seems to know everything about mango (*Mangifera indica L.*)—from the different and best varieties, grafting, pruning and caring for the fruit tree to making the best mango puree.

But there is nothing unusual for this 68-year-old doctor of medicine, who operates a clinic in Palompon town in Leyte, to be engrossed in mango growing and to discourse about this famous tropical tree.

He owns an orchard that boasts of the sweetest mangoes in Leyte and Samar, and people go to his two-hectare farm to buy the fruits, either for business or consumption. He leaves it to others to judge if his mangoes are indeed very sweet.

It was bruited about that he was able to buy a farm truck with earnings of his first harvest from 120 mango trees in 1989.

Pastor said he acquired the mango seedlings in Cebu and planted these in his farm in 1984. He had no idea of the variety of his mangoes until a decade later when an expert from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (Laguna) told him that they were of the "*lamao*" type from Bataan, one of the best and sweetest mangoes in the country.

Pursuing a dream

How did he become involved in mango growing? "For lack of anything to do," he answered in jest.

Turning serious, he confessed that it had been his childhood dream to become an agriculturist.

"But my parents discouraged me by telling me that we are not *hacenderos* (hacienda owners)," he said. He was forced by his parents to become a doctor after an elder brother unexpectedly gave up studying in a medical school, he said.

About 50 years later, Pastor now finds himself dividing his time between attending to patients at his clinic in the town proper and looking after his mango and other fruit trees in his farm, about a kilometer away.

He usually unwinds in his farm after a hectic day, sometimes staying there till late at night, he said.

Since he planted his mango trees, Pastor spent the past two decades learning more about his passion. He attended seminars, read many literatures about the fruit, got involved in some of the work in his orchard, and consulted with experts from the Department of Agriculture.

He learned, among other matters, the proper planting distance between trees, the right time to spray the trees with fungicide, and how to control pests like fruit flies.

Pastor recalled that when the trees started flowering, considered a critical stage, he had "to make the rounds just like what I do in a hospital."

Hard work

To those planning to venture into mango growing, Pastor would advise them to buy seedlings only from accredited nurseries to make sure that they get the right cultivar or mango variety.

He also said that maintaining a mango orchard entailed hard work, patience and know-how.

The owner must also be prepared for eventualities, such as massive pest infestation, or natural calamities, such as typhoons, Pastor said. He recalled that when his orchard was hit by a typhoon in 2003, he had to dump 12 tons of mangoes that fell from his trees.

The success of his mango orchard depends much on his six trustworthy and hardworking caretakers, who maintain the farm and look after the trees and fruits, he said. In return, they get 20 percent of the farm's gross income as wages.

Pastor hires other workers, especially when the trees are already bearing fruits. In May, he employed several baggers to wrap young mangoes with paper as protection from pests.

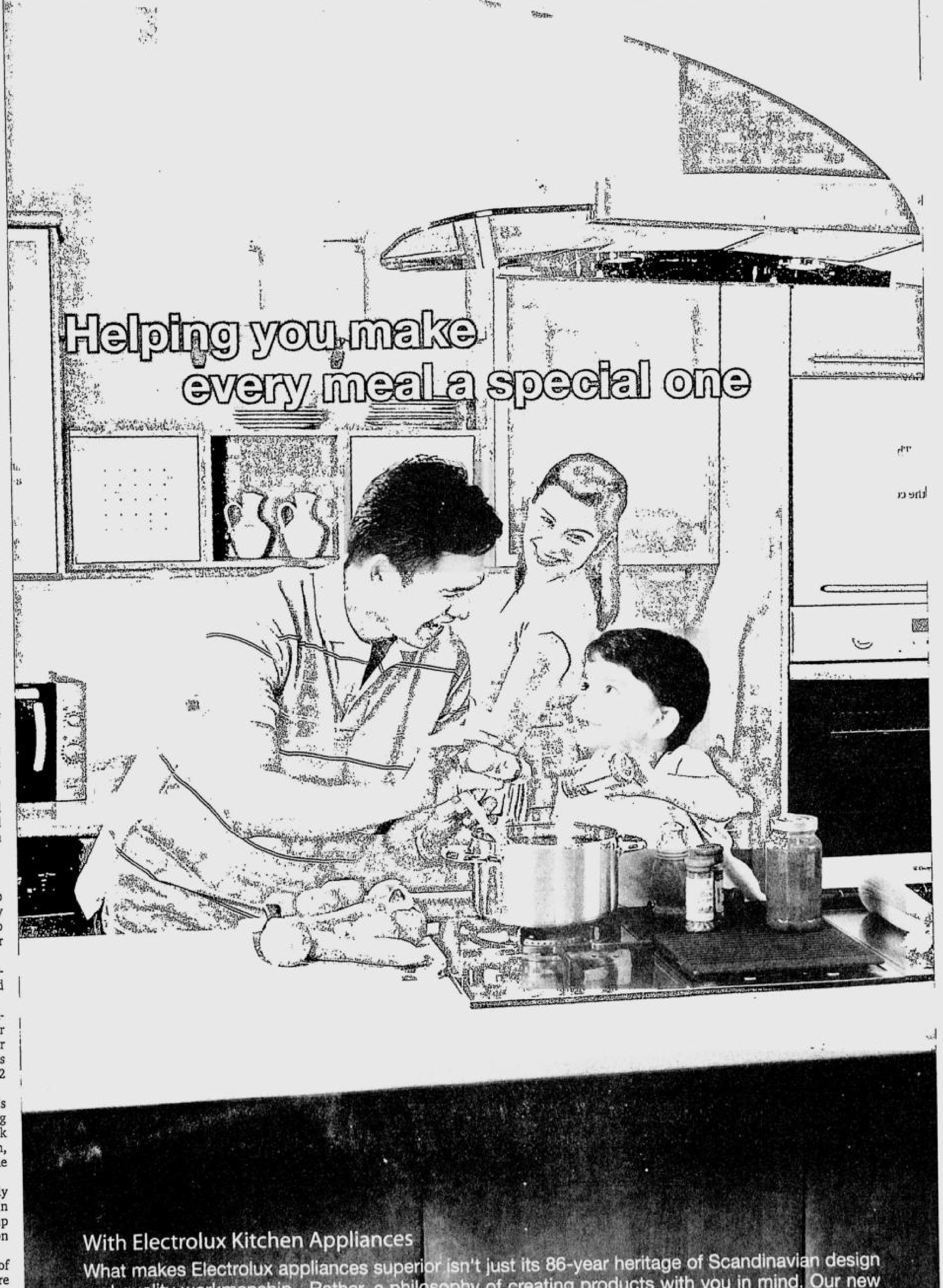
He sells his mangoes at a farmgate price of P30 per kilo. If more than 500 kilos are bought, he reduces the price to P28 per kilo, but these are sold only at the farm. "I don't deliver," he declared.

Buyers come from Palompon and as far as Ormoc and Tacloban cities in Leyte.

He brings some of the unsold mangoes to his house where he and a couple of helpers convert these into puree. Neighbors and even visitors from other places are his usual customers.

Until now, Pastor could not categorically say whether his mango orchard is a business enterprise or just a hobby. "What I know is that I enjoy what I am doing," he said.

But some townsfolk are now calling him a doctor "*murag*" (who is very much like an) agriculturist.



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A BRIGHT PRESENCE in the blighted Palace, presidential granddaughter Eva Victoria Arroyo who's crawling toward a delighted President. EDWIN BACASMAS

Bright child means ...

From page A1

In concluding her speech, Ms Arroyo said if there were more bright children around, the country would see more bright adults "in the next generation."

"*At siguro itong mga kaguluhan sa ating sistema ng pulitika ay mamemenos kasi ang susunod na generation ay mas magaling, mas matino, mas matalino at sana mas menos ang pulitika*(Perhaps we will have less problems in the political system since the next generation will be better, more sensible, smarter and less into politics)," the President said.

Junior ambassador

The event saw the government appointing child actor BJ "Tolits" Forbes as Junior Ambassador of Goodwill.

BJ is popularly known for his perky character "Tolits" in a laundry soap commercial on TV.

The 7-year-old BJ thanked Ms Arroyo and officials for naming him junior ambassador, saying that his appointment was a great privilege and honor for him, his parents and teachers at Angelicum.

BJ promised to fulfill his duties as junior ambassador and to make sure there would be more bright children in the country.

"*Para 'di laging ako. Lagi na lang ako* (So it's not always me. It's always me)," he recited his famous line which brought the house down.

Asked if he had a message for Ms Arroyo, BJ said he hopes the Chief Executive would be "more popular."

Asked whether he was aware of the problems plaguing the President, BJ readily answered in the affirmative.

Did he have any suggestion on how Ms Arroyo should go about solving the problems?

Let them be

BJ said: "*Pabayaan na lang po sila. Mapupuyat lang tayo dun. Matulog na lang tayo ng buong araw* (Let them be. We will only get exhausted from lack of sleep. Let's sleep the whole day)."

Also with a message for Ms Arroyo was Sean Leand Sabasa, a 6-year-old boy from Cubao Elementary School, with a surprisingly good memory. He could name all the presidents of the Philippines and the capitals of countries, among others.

"Please be brave and happy despite the political crisis. We support you. We need you. God bless," said Sean to the President.

DRAWING, answering questions for one and a half hours. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Wonder boy aces UP test, is confirmed as gifted child

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon

ADRIAN "Adi" Maronilla Jr., 4, was tested yesterday at the University of the Philippines' Department of Psychology and was found positive to be gifted, his father Adrian Sr. told media.

The test result came as a relief to Adi's parents, who recently asked media to help them get assistance for their only child. The young couple could not afford a proper school suitable for the boy's intellectual level.

Adi first entered school in June in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, and was immediately put in Grade 1. He dropped out after only two weeks because he told his mother Marynol that he already knew what was being taught in class.

But the wonder boy expressed a wish to go to school and his parents wanted to grant him his wish.

With the help of concerned individuals, Adi was able to take the test, which would determine if he was gifted or not, yesterday morning at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The test took an hour and a half and was conducted by department chair Elizabeth Ventura. Asked what he did during the test, Adi said he was made to draw and answer questions. He said he did well.

The media failed to get an interview with Ventura as she left immediately after giving the exam.

Adrian Sr. said the Philippine Association for the Gifted had agreed to support his son.

Adi was the object of curiosity by some UP students who recognized him from his photos that appeared in the INQUIRER.

"Let him be normal ... like [any other] child," advised Adrian Sr.'s uncle Atanacio Vasquez Maronilla, former Overseas Workers Welfare Administration administrator.

He said the government should seriously consider the needs of gifted children as they are a "natural resource" of the country.

Asked about their plans for the boy, Adi's parents said, "we're still thinking about what we should do."

They added: "Rest assured we will always remind Adi that somebody [up there] is more knowledgeable than he is. We want him to have a balanced life."

GMA ranks 4th most powerful woman in Forbes

From page A1

signed a gross national product number but a low multiplier, while an executive is assigned a company's assets but gets a high multiplier.

"We wanted to find women who had both global economic impact and cultural impact," said Elizabeth MacDonald, senior editor at Forbes.

Affirmation

Malacafiang hailed the President's making it to Forbes' rankings, saying it was an affirmation of her declaration in her State of the Nation Address that the Philippine economy was on the verge of a takeoff.

"This is a recognition of the President's qualities as a leader and of her achievements, particularly in driving our economic growth up to 6.1 percent, even in the face of adversities," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Administration Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri said the President should not be complacent and continue with her work to dispel the negative results of recent surveys on her performance.

"It's flattering but she should not rest on her laurels. We have a lot of problems and the best PR campaign for her is to work, work and work," Zubiri said.

'National shame'

Opposition politicians and militant groups could find nothing to cheer about in Ms Arroyo's being listed among the world's most powerful women.

"Having a fake President considered as among the world's most powerful is quite an insult to Filipinos," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

Bayan said Ms Arroyo's ranking was a source of "national shame."

"This is one ranking we cannot be proud of. Mrs. Arroyo's so-called power and influence emanates from fraud and corruption," Reyes said in statement.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales said Ms Arroyo was powerful because the presidency has "so much clout in institutions, appointing thousands in the bureaucracy."

"Forbes must have meant that GMA is so powerful such that she was able to rig and manipulate one of the largest elections in the world," said Akbayan Rep. Risa Baraquel.

Diplomatic activism

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that he was dismayed since the President only abused her position to further her interests and cling to power.

Rice, who beat out a host of presidents, celebrities and chief executives, topped the 2004 inaugural rankings as US national security adviser.

RICE tops the list. AP

McDonald cited Rice for "reinvigorating the role of Secretary of State with a form of diplomatic activism that we haven't seen in a while."

The highest ranking businesswoman on the list was Margaret Whitman, the chief executive of the wildly successful Internet auction site eBay, who was in fifth position, ahead of Xerox chief executive Anne Mulcahy.

Oprah Winfrey

US talk show queen Oprah Winfrey, who last month topped the Forbes list of most powerful celebrities, broke into the all-women top 10 at No. 9—a huge leap from her 62nd ranking in 2004.

Rounding out the top 10 was Melinda Gates, wife of billionaire Microsoft founder Bill Gates and co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Other well known names on the list included US Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton (26), recently retired US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (36), Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling (40), US First Lady Laura Bush (46) and CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour (72).

Burmese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been in jail or under house arrest for much of the past 15 years, placed 15th.

Harry Potter author

Singapore's Ho Ching, who helms the city-state's investment arm Temasek Holdings and is married to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, is 20th.

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling shot up the rankings to No. 40 from No. 85 last year following the mid-July release of the latest book in the popular series. Rowling is the top British woman in the poll, ahead of 62nd-ranked Cherie Blair, the prime minister's wife, and Queen Elizabeth II (75). *AFP and AP with reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Philip C. Tubeza and DJ Yap*

'Garci was there at La Vista, too'

From page A1

they are not true)," Napoleon said. "He was laughing."

Napoleon called the INQUIRER twice, initially saying he could not reach his brother by phone but that he doubted that his brother would talk against Ms Arroyo because he would have consulted his family before doing anything like that.

Napoleon called again an hour later to say he was able to reach his brother, who then issued the denial.

A second INQUIRER source corroborated the supposed La Vista meeting but it was not clear from the account of the second source if Garcillano was there.

The second source said he also knew about the payoff because he had been in constant touch with the witness.

He said that on that day, May 6, 2004, Comelec regional directors supposedly began arriving at La Vista as early as 4 p.m. and stayed on until around 10 p.m., sharing a dinner of "bacalao and steak" with Ms Arroyo.

Quoting the witness, the source said Ms Arroyo at one point told the election officials: "*Kayo na bahala* (I leave it all in your hands)."

Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao called the report "hogwash."

"It's not really even worth dignifying with a response," he said in a text message. "But anyway, the opposition's black propaganda is getting less and less imaginative."

The new witness is reportedly being readied by "jueteng" crusader Archbishop Oscar Cruz to testify at a stalled Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers game.

Lawyer Frank Chavez is scheduled to fly to the United States reportedly to talk to the witness and get his statement, the INQUIRER learned.

Intense anger

Dy's NPC is allied with Ms Arroyo's Lakas-CMD coalition in the House of Representatives.

The second source clarified that not all Comelec directors showed up at the Arroyo house to accept the alleged payoff. Efren Rafanan, National Capital Region director, and the Comelec officer in charge of Cagayan at that time were purportedly not invited.

The witness was driven by intense anger to speak out about what he knew of the La Vista meeting, said a source privy to the negotiations between Cruz and the witness.

The third source said the witness blamed Ms Arroyo for his defeat in the gubernatorial race in his province last year.

Getting back at GMA

"He's mad because the President didn't support him," the source said in an interview.

Some people in the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, which Cruz chairs, sees the man's anger at Ms Arroyo as a double-edged sword in its effort to prove that she had long been benefiting from jueteng operations in the country, the source said.

On one hand, the anger could drive the witness to "go all the way" in establishing Ms Arroyo's alleged links with jueteng lords.

On the other hand, said the source, the man's long-entrenched ties with the President might later make him change his mind about testifying against her.

No saint

"That's why we're also careful," the third source said. "This man is no saint."

As of yesterday, the witness had yet to execute an affidavit detailing his accusations against the President.

Cruz has maintained a strict screening process for jueteng witnesses who go to him. He requires them to preserve their accounts both in an affidavit and on video and talk with intermediaries before he actually meets and grills them himself.

The witness contacted the bishop more than a week ago and volunteered to squeal on Ms Arroyo's alleged effort to cheat in the May elections.

Cruz himself refused yesterday to comment on his new witness, apparently not wanting to turn him off and drive him away.

It started with Sandra

It was jueteng informant Sandra Cam who gave reporters Wednesday details about what the new witness supposedly knew concerning the La Vista meeting.

According to Cam, the witness was present when the Comelec directors each received P2 million in cash from Lilia Pineda, wife of known jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda. The payoff was allegedly witnessed by Ms Arroyo.

Garcillano has been at the center of a wiretapping scandal involving alleged conversations between him and Ms Arroyo on making sure she won the election by more than 1 million votes.

'Trial by publicity'

Ms Arroyo invoked her right to remain silent when asked on GMA 7 on Thursday night whether she was talking to Garcillano in the supposed wiretapped conversation.

"I am an accused. My trial by publicity is getting to be too much so my lawyer said that I should not comment on these things where I have been accused," she said when asked point blank by GMA News anchor Mike Enriquez whether it was indeed Garcillano she called 15 times last year during the election canvassing.

Malacañang said people should not look for Garcillano at the Palace.

"We don't have any information but I'm sure authorities in charge of accounting for missing persons are looking for him," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a briefing.

Bunye suggested that Congress, which has begun an investigation into the wiretap scandal, try the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to verify rumors that Garcillano had left for abroad.

"They (the BID) have a mandate under the law and they have to fulfill their respective mandate," Bunye said.

Heed Church teachings

A ranking administration lawmaker called on Cruz to stop "supporting" the opposition's drive to crucify Ms Arroyo.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay appealed to Cruz to "heed the teachings of his own Church ... [by] turning away from partisan politics."

Pichay said it was not for Cruz to trumpet in the media that he had a witness who would directly implicate Ms Arroyo in jueteng.

"He should be the first to follow the rule of law, and refrain from making irresponsible allegations given his position in the Church," Pichay said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Comelec execs to sue Cam

By Jerome Aning

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said the agency's 13 regional directors planned to file criminal charges against "jueteng" witness Sandra Cam for saying that they received P2 million each from a suspected jueteng lord's wife.

"They are very angry and outraged," Abalos told reporters. He said the directors were still discussing what precise charges to file against Cam.

The directors feel that their integrity had been smeared even if Cam's accusations were false and baseless, Abalos added.

Abalos said that it should be the actual, direct witness to an alleged bribery who should come out and state his account of events.

"When one reports to a woman that her husband has a mistress, the one reporting should have at least a direct knowledge about it," he said.

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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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ERIK ARAZAS

REP. Cynthia Villar and her husband, Sen. Manny Villar, at the opening of the unique bamboo museum, the first of its kind in the country.

Museum by the river

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A LUSH bamboo grove will soon be one of the major attractions in south Metro, long known to be a popular site of sprawling subdivisions and urban enterprise.

Along the banks of the Las Piñas River, young bamboo plants of around 22 varieties from 32 species found in the country welcomed residents and visitors who witnessed the launching yesterday morning of the first "bamboo museum" in Metro Manila.

Thailand Bamboo, Pole Bamboo and Dwarf Variegated Bamboo were just among the 28 species that filled up the two-kilometer one-of-a-kind museum stretched along the river, sprucing up an otherwise unimpressive riverbank landscape.

Called the Bambusetum, the new attraction is a component of the Sagip Ilog Project, the city's river rehabilitation program, according to Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar, who marked her birthday celebration with the opening of the museum yesterday.

The museum's gateway is on C-5 Extension near the Sagip-Ilog Wharf.

Villar is also eyeing the bamboo garden as a research haven for students and a major livelihood source in the future. "We are now looking for a more diverse role of the lowly bamboo in our lives," she said. " The bamboo could be a good source of livelihood opportunities just as it is a big boost to our campaign to save the rivers of Las Piñas," she said.

The city has two major rivers that make up the Las Piñas River, said Rolindo Magallanes, head of the river rehabilitation program.

The Naga River runs up to 2.9 kilometers from Manila Bay to Naga Road, while the 18-kilometer Zapote River passes through Filinvest in Muntinlupa City, Zapote and Manila Bay. Villar's Sagip-Ilog Project began on Dec. 12, 2001, Magallanes added.

"Planting bamboos would be cheaper than rip-rapping and building dikes along the riverbanks to prevent soil erosion," Villar explained.

The bamboo museum, serving as a research hub and a preventive measure against soil erosion, can also be a major source of livelihood for residents, she added. Villar said around 28 varieties of bamboo would be planted in the museum. The remaining six varieties remain uncollected in Antipolo. "We haven't transferred these yet because they are still very small and could die if they are moved," she said. Only 500 meters so far have been planted to bamboo. When the bamboo matures, these would be used for the city's famous Christmas lanterns or *parol*, explained the congresswoman.

"Las Piñas is known for the centuries-old and world-renowned bamboo organ, and our *parol*. Soon, it will also be known as Metro Manila's City of Bamboo, Villar said, adding that the bamboo signified resiliency as a people and a nation.

Around 80 residents are now undergoing a series of livelihood training workshops on *parol*-making and other bamboo crafts. "This early, we are already providing residents knowledge and training on bamboo crafts-making," Villar said.

One backhoe with a barge, a motorized tugboat, and a dump truck were also donated by Villar for the river rehabilitation program. A total of P3.5 million had been allocated for new equipment while P200,000 was used for the Bambusetum.

Those who worked with the city on the project were the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region and the office of Sen. Manuel Villar.

More footbridges open to pedestrians in QC, Pasig

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) opened this week four more steel footbridges to help make crossing roads safer for pedestrians.

The projects were delayed as the agency made sure overhead high-voltage wires would not pose a threat to pedestrians.

The Traffic Engineering Center (TEC) of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center opened this week three additional overpasses in Quezon City: on Muñoz Avenue corner Edsa, Quezon Avenue corner Araneta Avenue, and Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta Avenue.

In Pasig, the TEC opened an overpass on a busy intersection of Marcos Highway, in front of Sta. Lucia Mall.

The footbridges were among the 14 the MMDA completed last year.

"We opened the footbridges because Meralco (Manila Electric Co.) moved the high-tension wires (overhead), as we requested," said TEC chief Ramon Ona.

The agency kept the footbridges closed until the power company relocated the wires that were at least 10-12 feet from walkways.

The MMDA wanted the wires moved higher after a pedestrian was electrocuted while passing through the Muñoz-Edsa footbridge on April 22.

The victim was carrying a metal rod that accidentally touched overhead high-tension wires carrying some 40,000 volts of electricity, said Ona. Fortunately, the victim survived.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando repeatedly wrote Meralco reminding the company of its request to relocate utility lines.

It asked that high-tension wires be raised as they "posed danger to and hampered the smooth flow of pedestrians utilizing the footbridge."

Safe distance

The wires were raised to a safer distance of 15 feet, allowing the opening of the four footbridges.

Rustico de Borja, Meralco assistant vice president and distribution services chief, said the power firm promptly complied with the MMDA request, its field personnel effecting the changes starting February 2004.

Shabu cache in 3 QC homes

By DJ Yap

SIMULTANEOUS raids in three houses in Quezon City yesterday yielded almost P150 million worth of "shabu," or metamphetamine hydrochloride, and ephedrine, an ingredient for making the so-called poor man's cocaine.

Six Chinese caretakers of one of the three houses were caught on suspicion of involvement in the drug trade, narcotics agents said.

Seized during the raid were 65 kilos of shabu worth about P131 million, and 500 kilos of ephedrine, worth some P14.5 million, said Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (Aidsotf) chief Ricardo De Leon.

Fifty kilos of shabu and 20 crates of ephedrine were discovered at 12-B Liwayway St., Barangay West Triangle, while 11 more kilos of shabu were found at nearby 19-C Bulletin St., De Leon said. Another five kilos were seized at Rest Heaven corner Baler St.

Vice raid was too much for old man

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEY barged in a community supposedly to enforce the law against illegal gambling. But the commotion they caused proved fatal to an old man.

Now, the family of German Macalanda, 73, is blaming the Mandaluyong City Hall Anti-Vice Unit for his death from a heart attack the other night. Police said operatives arrived at Barangay Vergara at 8:30 p.m. Thursday after receiving information that there was an illegal horse racing bookies joint in the area.

According to the grieving family's version, as quoted by barangay officials, the operatives arrived in the area looking for Noel Dizon, 42, a son-in-law of the victim. But Dizon reportedly resisted arrest. A commotion then ensued. During the confrontation, Dizon's 14-year-old son told operatives to spare his father and his grandfather who was sick.

Macalanda tried to pacify his grandson, who had threatened to hit the operatives with a shovel. One of the operatives allegedly poked a gun at the boy, witnesses said. Macalanda then started to feel chest pains at the height of the confrontation. He died before reaching the hospital.

But in their report to Mayor Neptali Gonzales, the operatives claimed they had come from another operation and had chanced upon people collecting bets for the illegal game who fled the scene upon their arrival. During the commotion, Macalanda suffered a heart attack, the report said. Gonzales said he ordered an investigation of the incident.

2 fake policemen nabbed for extortion

Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO WATCHMEN posing as policemen were arrested for allegedly extorting money from a businessman inside a Manila mall on Wednesday night.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) nabbed Manjorsa Mascod Gilman, 31, and Yasser Pandita, 29, both of 401 Delafe St., San Miguel, Manila, during an entrapment operation at the Isetann Department Store in Quiapo. Another suspect, policeman Majibor Tabara, remains at large. According to NBI Reaction, Arrest and Interdiction Division (RAID) chief Ruel Lasala, Tabara and Gilman approached Daniel Ulama last July 21 near his cell phone stall and introduced themselves as law enforcers who wanted to bring Ulama to the police station on estafa charges. When mall guards intervened, Tabara seized Ulama's cell phone and later sent him text messages demanding P10,000. The suspects were caught in an entrapment operation after Ulama filed a complaint in the NBI.

Let's bury Marcos at the Libingan

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CONSTANT barrage on the public by polling firms of the President's popularity rating is already sickening.

For the nth time, Pulse Asia again came out with its latest survey showing that 47 percent of Filipinos don't like GMA.

The same polling firm came out with basically the same survey results several times in one month.

When will these polling firms say "enough is enough" of the popularity ratings of the Chief Executive?

Nakakasuka na!

* * *

Survey firms ride on the President's unpopularity rating.

Why? Because the results are swallowed by media as gospel truth. This means publicity for the survey firms.

* * *

If President Marcos allowed results of surveys to be published during his martial law reign, he, too, would have gotten a failing grade.

National leaders, because of decisions they make that are unpalatable to many sectors of the population, always become unpopular.

But life must go on for an unpopular leader no matter what his or her constituents or subjects think about his or her governance.

As long as a leader believes that what he or she is doing is for the common good, he or she must plod on.

In the end, people might realize that what he or she did was for their own benefit. Life at the peak of the mountain is a lonely one.

* * *

A national newspaper (not the INQUIRER) reported that President Arroyo appeared to be open to having deposed President Ferdinand Marcos buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

The issue of whether or not Marcos should be buried at the national heroes' cemetery should have been resolved a long time ago.

Why shouldn't Marcos be accorded a hero's burial? Didn't he fight in Bataan? Wasn't he one of our departed Chief Executives?

After all, lesser mortals, my old man and my paternal grandfather among them, are buried at the Libingan.

My father and grandfather were allowed to be buried at the Libingan because they fought in Bataan during World War II.

If lesser mortals are buried at the Libingan, why shouldn't we bury Marcos since he not only fought in Bataan, he was also our former President.

C'mon, let's not be carried away by former President Aquino's argument that Marcos was a heel, not a hero! Only history can judge the man.

Madame Cory, vindictive as she is, up to now can't forgive Marcos for her husband's death. This woman, who shows people that she's religious, still harbors ill feelings toward a dead man.

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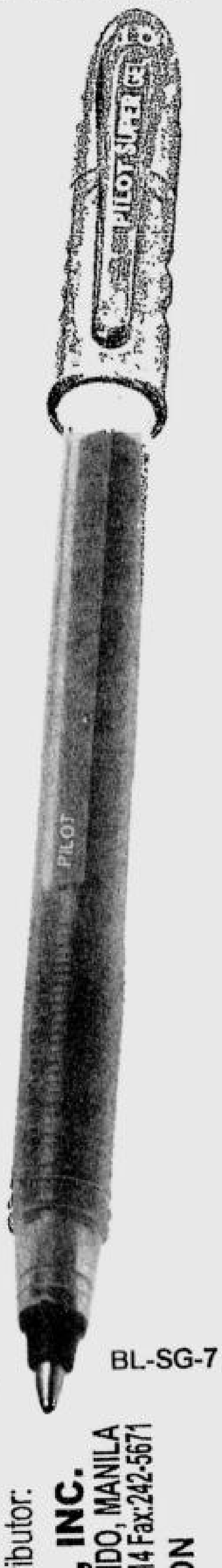

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- UP battles Ateneo /A24
- Creamer, Wie fall way behind in British Open /A26

- Gorres seeks OPBF shot vs Thai tonight /A29

RP-SMB cagers thump Russians

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIPEI—An RP-San Miguel side that came out loose and fresh tore big and tall Russia apart last night in a lopsided 91-78 victory that shoved the Filipinos into solo second place heading into the final two days of the 27th Jones Cup basketball tournament.

Brandon Cablay saw action and shone for the first time in four games and Kelly Williams had a breakout game as they led the Filipinos to their sixth win in seven outings at the Taipei Physical Education College gym here.

Williams scored seven of his 10 first-half points in a torrid two-minute stretch late in the first period, highlighting the run with two tomahawk jams as the Philippines staged an early breakaway.

The defeat was the Russians' third straight.

The Filipinos took the half by 19 points, 52-33 as Cablay, back after recovering from a bruised knee, chipped in eight of his total in the first two periods.

Russia, which opened up with four straight wins, dropped to 4-3 and crashed out of the championship fight. It lost to Passing Lane of the United States, 71-100, late Thursday after dropping a controversial decision to defending champion Taiwan the night before.

As things stand, only the Philippines, which had its longest rest of more than 24 hours, can win the title outside of the US, granting the Americans remain undefeated going into Sunday's match with the Filipinos.

RP-San Miguel lost to Passing Lane by nine points in the Global Hoops Summit in Las Vegas almost two weeks ago.

BIG GAME: Brandon Cablay PDI PHOTO

Passing Lane nipped Qatar in overtime earlier to improve to 7-0 while pulling the Qataris down to 5-2, the same slate held by the Taiwanese, who were stunned by Qatar in the nightcap Thursday.

The Philippines is looking to win this tournament for the first time since 1998, when the Centennial Team under Tim Cone triumphed in style.

A sweep of their final two games—against the Taiwanese at 8 p.m. tonight and the Americans at 6 p.m. tomorrow—would give the Filipinos the championship. A loss in either of those outings, and assuming the Americans continue with their romp, would put the US out of reach.

Answering the third-quarter horn flat and listless, the Philippines saw an imposing 19-point bubble whittle down to six, 52-58, after a fallaway in the keyhole by reed-thin forward Oleg Bartunov.

Dondon Hontiveros, whom coach Chot Reyes said has been the most versatile performer for RP-SMB, then hit a layup and two three-pointers in a 10-2 spurt that had the Filipinos regaining a double digit spread.

The only other basket for the Philippines in that run came from Williams, who soared a full head above 7-foot-3 Russian center Dmitry Ponosov to stuff in an Asi Taulava miss.

Hontiveros finished with four triples to lead the Philippines with 19 points. Williams and Cablay finished with 12 and 10, respectively.

The Philippines' only loss so far came via a 80-76 defeat to a junior squad from Australian Institute of Sports on Wednesday.

But the Filipinos stayed in title contention by turning back Japan's under-23 team, 76-72, on Thursday.

Reyes said that winning the tournament would be nice but added that it is not the ultimate goal of the squad.

"It's no secret that we want to win this tournament, but the lessons we learn for the long term are what's important," added Reyes after the loss to Australia, which came after big victories over Korea's under-23 squad, India, Kazakhstan and Qatar.

The Philippines is using the tournament as part of its long-term preparation for a bold plan—a return to the Olympics in the 2008 edition in Beijing.

Most of the Filipinos saw action for another RP squad also handled by Reyes that won two games in the Global Hoops Summit summer league in Las Vegas.

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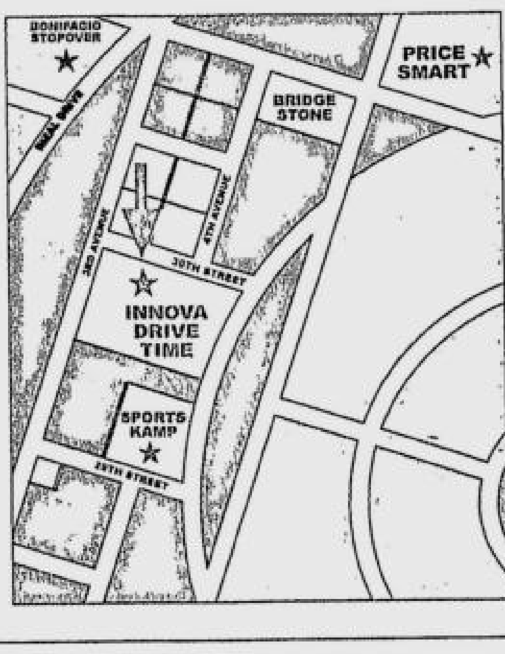

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UP battles Ateneo; UE tests Adamson

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines coach Lito Vergara says the Maroons' surprisingly strong start has given them a psychological lift.

But it's back to reality for the Maroons today as they try to regain their winning form against the Ateneo Eagles in the UAAP basketball tournament at 2 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	5	0
UE	3	1
UP	3	1
La Salle	3	2
Ateneo	2	2
Adamson	2	2
UST	0	5
NU	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
12 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Srs)

"I always tell the team to forget about the first three games," said Vergara, whose Maroons jumped to a 3-0 record before absorbing a 57-51 loss from the University of the East Warriors last Saturday.

Coach Dindo Pumaren's young Warriors will also be gunning for a 4-1 card like the Maroons when they collide with the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

Pumaren expects the Warriors to flash the same intensity they've shown in their back-to-back stunners against the defending champion La Salle Archers and the Maroons.

"Winning against La Salle was a big factor," said Pumaren. "The momentum, the confidence of the players is there. Hopefully, we'll play the same way."

Coach Norman Black, in contrast, remains unsatisfied even if the Eagles will be coming off an 83-51 blowout win over the National U Bulldogs.

"We can't commit 38 turnovers and beat UP, it's as simple as that," said Black. "We have to learn to take care of the ball. We got away with it (against NU)."

"We've seen how UP plays and it's a whole different ballgame as far as their big men and perimeter players are concerned," added Black. "It's almost like playing FEU and La Salle. We have to bring out our A-game."

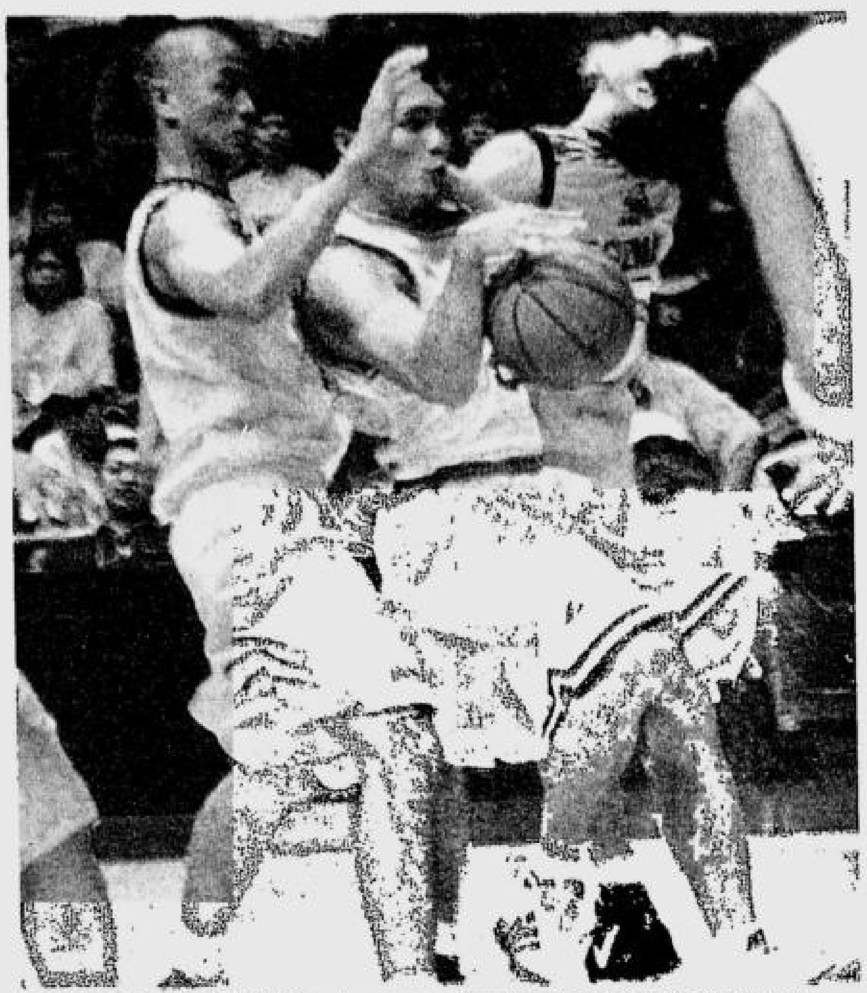
Veteran forwards Abby Santos and Nestor David have been leading the Maroons' charge while top playmaker LA Tenorio, who has been averaging 16.2 points, 6.8 rebounds, six assists and 1.8 steals, will lead the Eagles.

Another point guard, Earn Saguindel, has been energizing the Warriors' offense lately. Freshmen Bonifacio Custodio, Mark Borboran and 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano have also been providing major contributions for the Warriors.

Yet Pumaren remains wary of the Falcons, who lost to the Archers, 65-58, last Saturday.

"We can't compete in a shooting contest," he said. "The key will be our defense."

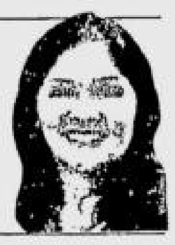
The Falcons have been relying on the strong shooting performance of Patrick Cabahug, who scored 24 points against the Archers. *Jasmine W. Payo*



JOSEPH Yeo of La Salle tries to squeeze through the UST pair of Anthony Espiritu (left) and Warren de Guzman (right) in their game Thursday. The Archers defeated the Tigers, 98-78. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Jinggoy tackles ban on RP caging

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

BEFORE he became senator, Jinggoy Estrada's claim to fame—among other things—was being Erap's son, mayor of San Juan, and a staunch basketball patron, not necessarily in that order.

Jinggoy's passion for basketball prompted him to construct a gym in San Juan while he was still the mayor there. He also formed a team which he called the San Juan Knights, that competed in the now-defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association.

The Knights boasted of big names like Rafi Réavis, Gherome Ejercito, Omanzie Rodriguez, Christian Calaguio, and former PBA cagers Macky de Joya, Rudy Distrito and Bonel Balingit.

I couldn't remember exactly how many times they became MBA champions, but I do recall that Jinggoy often also got into trouble because of his passion for the game. He was often involved in basketball imbroglios.

Jinggoy, incidentally, has another passion—the number 7, which he wears on his jersey (yes, he also plays basketball, and you must have seen him in action during the Star Games), to express his admiration for the Living Legend who wore the same number.

While basketball may be his first love as far as sports is concerned, my last encounter with Jinggoy involved boxing. He was then helping former world champ Luisito Espinosa make a comeback.

* * *

After so many years, Jinggoy returned to my consciousness when I got hold of a document which he introduced to the Senate last week. It was a resolution directing the Senate Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports, chaired by Sen. Lito Lapid, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into "the imposition of a ban on the Philippines by the International Basketball Federation, or Fiba, from competing in all Fiba-sanctioned tournaments."

While he has been following the BAP-POC issue with much concern, Jinggoy said he was only compelled to intercede when the BAP-formed squad of amateur players sought his assistance after they were not allowed to play in the Seaba early this month.

"I cannot ignore this appeal. *Kawawa naman tayo, hindi tayo makakalaro sa* Fiba-Asia Men's Championship in Doha, Qatar, a competition which we had been laboriously preparing for. Worse, *baka hindi pa rin tayo makalaro sa* Southeast Asian Games which will be held *dito mismo sa atin*," said Jinggoy who feels that the ban has "adversely affected the state of sports development, particularly in the field of basketball."

Undoubtedly, the situation will demoralize the athletes and will project a negative image of our country in international sports, Jinggoy added.

According to the senator, the first hearing on the resolution was conducted this week.

"If the chairman (Lapid) gives his nod, we can start the inquiry right away. Time is of the essence. I want us to be able to play in the SEA Games, so the earlier we start the inquiry and resolve the issue, the better for Philippine basketball," the senator said.

Meanwhile, Jinggoy said Sen. Lapid has written to POC president Peping Cojuangco in the hope that the problem could be settled without going through an inquiry.

The committee on sports, which also includes senators Pia Cayetano and Dick Gordon, will decide on its plan of action based on Cojuangco's response to Lapid's appeal.

* * *

The press was awaiting word from Shell governor Bobby Kanapi yesterday regarding the ballclub's final decision on what to do with their PBA franchise.

Bobby K promised to come up with a decision by the end of July, but since yesterday was the last working day of the month, the press thought Kanapi might by then have an important announcement.

All has been extremely quiet on the Shell front however and, from what I heard, Bobby K's cellphone has been locked in his refrigerator freezer.

* * *

HOOPVINE: After the Awards Night, 2004-05 MVP Eric Menk returned to the US to attend to his citizenship papers. According to Barangay Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic, he expects Eric to fly back to Manila in time for the Kings' first day of practice on Aug. 1... former PBA coach Derick Pumaren signed a one-year contract as Talk 'N Text consultant last Thursday. Will three heads be better than one for the Phone Pals? TNT's head coach is Joel Banal who will be working with two former head coaches—Derick and Bong Ramos who will stand as his assistant... There's word that newly installed PBF president Moying Martelino is eyeing former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino to be his secretary general.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Saturday July 30 2005

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Sports Plus						Porsche Round 7		Pennsylvania 500 Highlights		BD Catalina	The Search TV	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Tour De France			
Cinemax			48 Hrs. (3:45PM)			Hook (5:15PM)					Clockstoppers			Introducing Dorothy Dandridge: A True Story				Darkman II The Return Of Durant (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	The Twilight Of The Golds				Angel In The Family				Tuesdays With Morrie				Fungus The Bogey Man			Fungus The Bogey Man		
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Emperor's New Groove			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Recess: Taking The 5th Grade	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Evolve: Pixel People	One Step Beyond	Blueprint For Disaster		In The Wake Of The Junks		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Penguin Baywatch		Creature Feature				Animals Like Us		The Snake Wranglers	Totally Wild	Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Barbie As Rapunzel			Cartoon Cartoon Show: Dee Dee	Grand Sazer	Crush Gear Nitro	Justice League	Space Ghost Coast to Coast	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Snick: Unfabulous (New)/All Grown Up/My Dad The Rock/Star/Drake&Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Revealed With Jules Asner		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		Conspiracy Theory: Did Man Really Land On The Moon?/Extreme Bloopers/World's Worst Drivers		Cops		The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
AXN		Lost		Lost		WRC 2005: Argentina		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Now See This	Now See This	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Lost		Last Action Hero			
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Fear	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Undeclared			Going For Broke (4:25PM)						Kangaroo Jack			Dawn Of The Dead			How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days		
Star Movies			Down With Love (3:25PM)			The Preacher's Wife (5:10PM)				Agent Cody Banks (7:15PM)				Terminator 2 Judgement Day				Die Hard 2: Die Harder (11:15PM)	
Cinema One	Honey Nasa Langit Na Ba Ako				Home Along Da River				My Movie				Pinoy Goes To Malaysia				My Movie		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factor C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis In Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

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Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Iloilo five parades 3 recruits vs Parañaque

BUENAVISTA, Guimaras—The Iloilo Warriors parade three new recruits today when they face the slumping KSK Food Products-backed Parañaque Jets at 6 p.m. at the Spring Joy gym here.

Bull-strong Francis Sanz and ex-pros Chris Cantonjos and Tonyboy Espinosa will suit up for the Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and strong supporter Gov. Niel Tupas in the game which is being held in cooperation with Mayor Samuel Gumarin and Rep. Edgar Espinosa.

Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana's Jets will be out to stop s 0-3 skid.

Over at the Valencia City gym in Bukidnon, the Bacchus/Harbour Centre-backed Manila squad will meet the Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario Jr. at 7 p.m.

The Manilans and the CdO Stars of former Misamis Oriental governor Antonio Calingin were locked in an exciting contest at presstime last night in Cagayan de Oro City.

PBL bets Nani Epondula, Bonjay Enrile and Fil-Am Rich Harden key Manila's bid in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Arch-rivals Ozamiz City and Tribu Sugbu pace the Southern Conference at 7-2, followed by Mantawi (5-3), Iligan (5-4), Valencia (4-5), CdO (2-4), Ililo (2-6) and Zanorte (18).

Forward Taguig leads the North at 6-0, followed by Laguna Spring (5-3), Cavite (6-5), Parañaque (3-6) Baguio (1-5) and Manila (0-1).

Cebu Slo-pitch softball gets going today

THE FIRST Cebuana Lhuillier Slo-pitch Softball Challenge of the new Cebu Slo-pitch League starts today with a heavy six-game schedule at the Cebu International School grounds in Cebu City.

Six co-ed teams have joined the double round robin tournament, led by host Cebu International School (CIS); the Cebu Flag Football League (CFFL) selection, Abellana-Cebuana Lhuillier, composed of high school kids who attended the Slo-pitch clinic in Cebu recently, and three teams from the Cebu Association of Batted Sports (Cabs).

The Cabs teams are led by Cebu's reigning fast-pitch softball champions, the Salazar College of Sciences and Institute of Technology (SCSIT), Pau de Arco, and Berns-Ang.

"We are pleased that our efforts to promote slo-pitch softball in Cebu has borne fruit this early. It shows how popular this sport can be, given the push, and definitely we will support the Cebu Slo-pitch Softball League in its endeavors," said Cebuana Lhuillier EVP-GM Jean Henri Lhuillier.

BALLY GOLF
SMART

STAR SIGNATURE
The Philippines' LPGA star Jennifer Rosales is only too glad to oblige a young fan before teeing off in the first round on Thursday of the British Open at the Royal Birkdale in South Merseyside, England. Rosales, who endorses Smart, later pulled out of the tournament reportedly due to an old wrist injury.

SEA GAMES CAMPAIGN

There's gold in cha-cha

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHA-CHA in the Southeast Asian Games? It's a sure thing.

Real Latin American dancesteps— and not the controversial charter change moves—will be featured as a medal sport in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games.

Debuting in the Philippine SEA Games this November, dancesports is in fact one of the most important sports disciplines in the biennial Games: the first SEAG gold will be disputed in the event.

Becky Garcia, president of the Dancesports Council of the Philippines, yesterday said the sport will stake a gold medal each in the standard and Latin categories, which the country could sweep and thus provide an impetus for the RP campaign.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed," Garcia, who founded the DCP in 1996, told the INQUIRER. "Right now we are having a full-length training course here and abroad."

She said the team has been going in and out of the country competing and training for the SEA Games, with the toughest competition expected to come from Thailand which established a dancesports association way ahead of the Philippines.

Other countries taking part in the event are Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Thailand was way ahead of us in terms of organizing events," said Garcia. "But we have overtaken them in terms of achievements."

Garcia credits this edge to the Filipinos' innate grace, flair and showmanship which, she said, could rival dancers from Europe and even South America.

The Philippines dancesports team has been garnering honors in the World Games and the Asia-Pacific Games, where the country has won a gold medal in the Latin category.

Garcia said the Philippines has a strong team in the Latin category but she hopes the country can pull off a sweep considering the event will be held before Filipino fans at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City.

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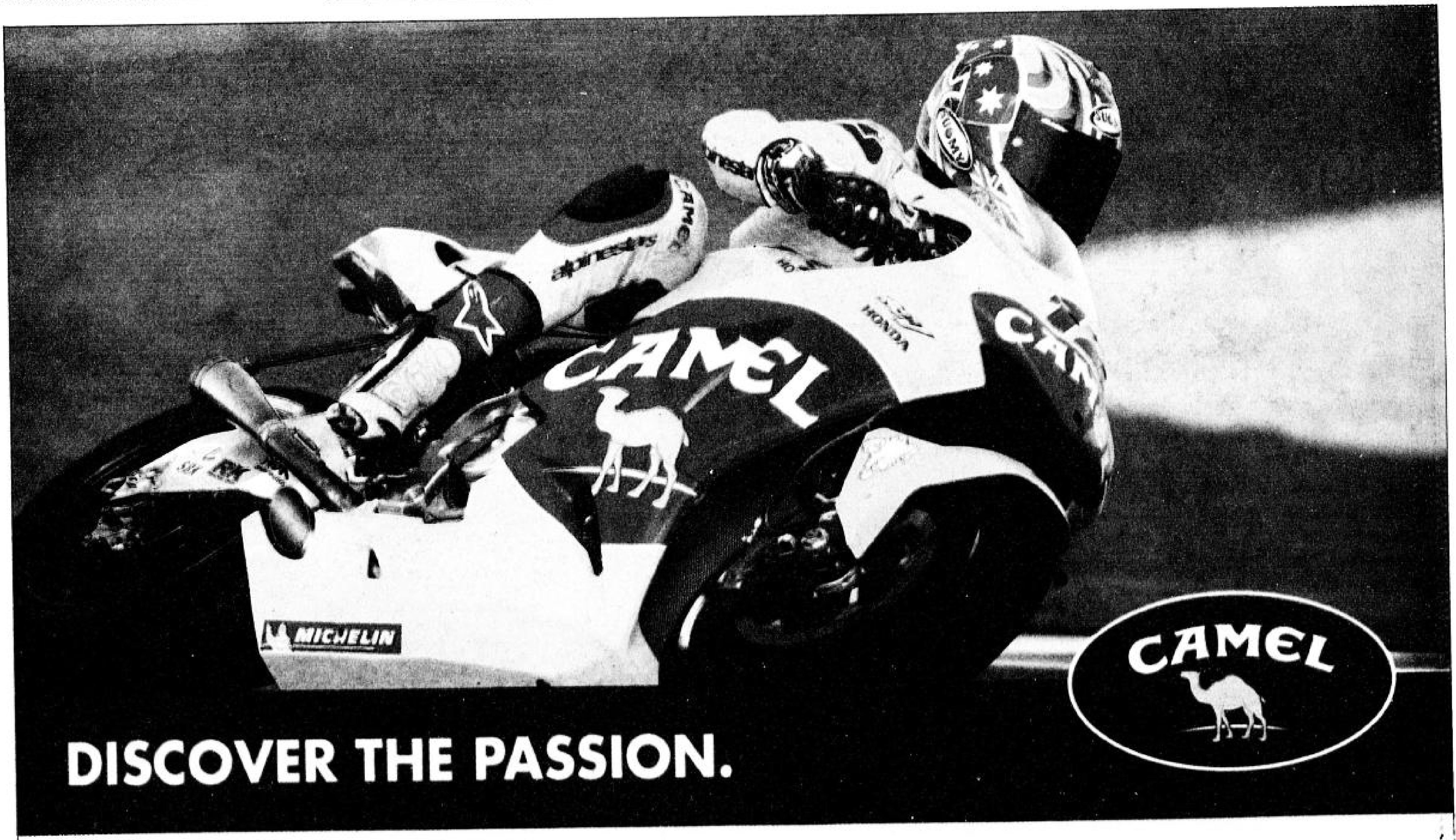

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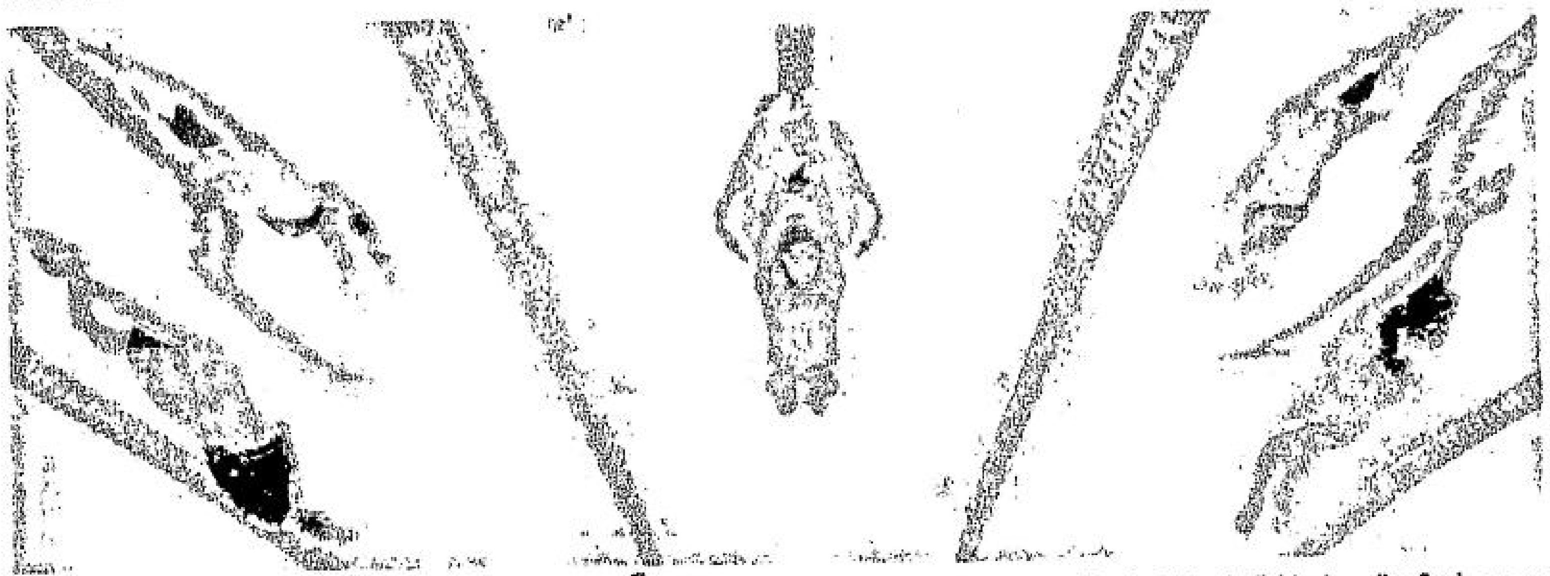


VYTAUTAS Janusaitis of Lithuania (left), Ryan Lochte (center) and Michael Phelps (right) hit the pool for the 200m individual medley final. REUTERS

Phelps a work in progress; Polish star breaks butterfly world record

MONTREAL—This isn't the record-breaking phenomenon from Barcelona. Or the medal-hoarding icon from Athens. This is Michael Phelps, the work in progress.

Phelps showed his vulnerable side again Thursday night when he was left in the wake of the 100-meter freestyle at the World Swimming Championships.

"Every swimmer has a weakness," he said. "I want to fix my weaknesses to make me a better swimmer."

Phelps bounced back to win his third gold medal of the meet in one of his signature events, the 200 individual medley.

Still, another trip to the podium wasn't enough to restore the aura of invincibility.

Phelps may be a once-in-a-generation swimmer, but he's not same guy who broke five world records at the 2003 Barcelona world championships or won a record-tying eight Olympic medals in Athens last summer, including six golds.

"In 2003, I was in the best shape that I've ever been in my entire life. Last summer was something that I'd always dreamt of," Phelps said. "This doesn't even compare to those meets. It's almost more of a steppingstone than anything."

While Filippo Magnini of Italy relegated Phelps to also-ran status, Poland's Otylia Jedrzejczak turned in the top performance of the night, breaking her own world record in the 200 butterfly.

Australia's Jess Schipper led until Jedrzejczak pulled slightly ahead with 25 meters to go. Schipper made a desperate lunge to the wall but came up short of the winning time—2 minutes, 5.61 seconds.

Jedrzejczak broke her previous record of 2:05.78, set three years ago, and needed every bit of it to claim the gold. Schipper also eclipsed the old record in 2:05.65, but it was only good enough for second.

Magnini held off the South African duo of Roland Schoeman and Ryk Neethling, winning in a meet-record time of 48.12.

And Phelps? He was last at the turn and managed to pass only one swimmer before touching in 48.99—failing to even match his time from the semifinals a day earlier.

JEDRZEJCZAK AFP

"I wasn't able to get out with those guys," the 20-year-old American said. "I was in their wake and I was just destroyed."

In the 200 IM, Phelps trailed Hungary's Laszlo Cseh after the butterfly and backstroke legs, but fought back to take a minuscule lead during the breaststroke.

Phelps won in 1:56.68. nearly a second ahead of Cseh. Another American, Ryan Lochte, took the bronze.

The US also won the women's 800 free relay. Australia led most of the way, but two-time Olympian Kaitlin Sandeno—swimming for the first time in the meet—overtook Linda MacKenzie just before the final turn and went on to finish in 7:53.70, a new meet record. *AP*

Creamer, V

Unheralded Korean le
Rosales withdraws aft

SOUTHPORT, England—Leading the teenage takeover of women's golf, Michelle Wie and Paula Creamer lie seven shots off the lead going into the second round of the British Open.

Don't count them out yet.

"I don't think I'm that far behind with the conditions like this," said Wie, the 15-year-old Hawaiian amateur who is expected to dominate women's golf for years to come. "I have three more days to go. We're not finished yet."

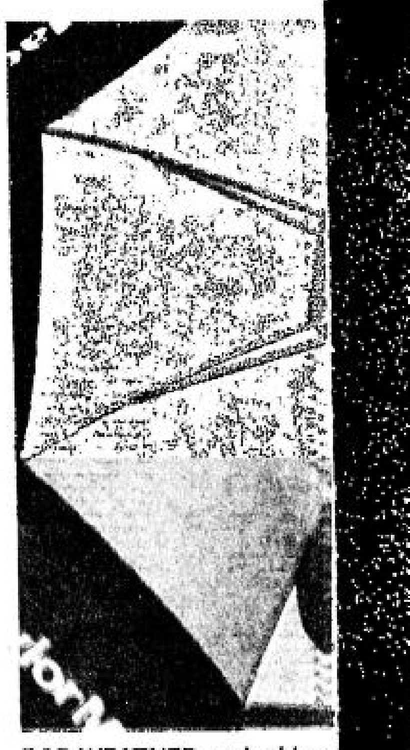
Jennifer Rosales fired a 75 and then withdrew for still unknown reasons while Annika Sorenstam's 1-over 73 left her five shots back in her bid for a 10th major title.

Creamer, 18-year-old winner of last week's Evian Masters in France, is confident of a low second round after she also carded a 3-over 75. "Tomorrow I'll be out early so I'll try to go as low as I can," she said.

She believes that whereas Thursday's early starters had better weather at the start of their rounds than she did in the afternoon, she would have that advantage Friday by beginning early.

She may be wrong. The rain, wind and chilly weather that caught the players Thursday is forecast to hang around for another day at least.

The weather dictated events Thursday with Jeong Jang of South Korea, winless in 5 1/2 years on the US LPGA Tour, battling the conditions best to seize the lead on 68, four under par for the 6,463-yard Royal Birkdale course.



BAD WEATHER made things
from the rain as she walks thr

Jang had an eagle and fou
2000 British Open champ
Gustafson by one stroke.

Wie took Thursday's weath
tive.

"When the wind and the
like this, the golf course beco
ferent," she said. "It's really ex
new experience for me."

Creamer, fresh from an eigh
ry in last week's Evian Maste

Sana sa kapwa tao naman tayo magdonate ng dugo.

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Watney tows Buick field;

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods' two dominant runs came to a startling halt.

Woods followed up his five-shot victory at the British Open and eight straight rounds in the 60s at Warwick Hills with a 1-under 71 Thursday in the first round of the Buick Open.

"It's been a while where I didn't get anything out of my round, not one shot," Woods said.

Nick Watney, whose only previous notable moment was playing with Michelle Wie earlier this month, headed into Friday's second round at 8 under, one shot ahead of Vijay Singh and Jason Bohn.

The 24-year-old rookie has missed seven straight cuts, breaking 70 only once, after his season-best 11th-place finish at the Wachovia Championship.

"I was pretty low there for a while, so it was nice to
this," he said.

Jim Furyk (6
went into the s
shots behind the

Woods had hi
Buick Open sin
and ended his
tying streak of e
in the 60s. Wood
then tied for sec
past two years.

Knicks make Brown richest North American pro coach

NEW YORK—Larry Brown was confirmed here Thursday as the new coach of the New York Knicks, with a reported five-year deal that makes him the highest-paid coach in North American professional sports history.

Brown's new National Basketball Association deal, according to reports in several newspapers here, is worth between $50 and $60 million.

Brown, a New York native who turns 65 next month, came home to obtain what he once called his "dream job," having idolized the Knicks since their most recent NBA championship squad back in 1973.

Brown vowed that this, his 11th coaching career stop and record eighth different NBA club to coach, will be his final head coaching job.

"I think I say that everywhere I have been," Brown said. "I know this will be my last stop. Basketball started for me in this city. I want to be here when it's finally time for me to stop."

Brown, whose 987 NBA coaching triumphs rank fourth on the all-time list, guided the Detroit Pistons to the 2004 NBA crown and within a game of repeating the feat before a seventh-game loss to San Antonio in last month's NBA Finals.

But the Pistons fired Brown after a settlement of the final three years of his contract was hammered out, with Brown reportedly unable to ensure he would be fit to coach every game for Detroit next season.

Brown underwent hip surgery in November, returned briefly but missed a total of 17 games last season after developing a serious bladder ailment.

While the contract does touch upon Brown's health issues, the Knicks proved more willing than the Pistons to make allowances for the concerns in order to have Brown at the helm.

Isaiah Thomas, the Knicks president of basketball operations and a former Pistons star in their 1990 and 1991 championship era, began pursuing Brown once it was clear he would not be back with the Pistons.

NEW YORK basketball operations president Isiah Thomas introduces Larry Brown as the Knicks' new coach. REUTERS

"This is a great day for the New York Knicks and our fans," Thomas said. "Larry Brown is not just one of the best coaches in the NBA, but in its history."

Having said that being named the 2004 US Olympic coach was the greatest honor of his career, Brown amended that remark upon the stage at Madison Square Garden, the Knicks home arena where he dreamed as a boy of an NBA career.

"I think standing here in Madison Square Garden with Isaiah and my family, this tops it all," Brown said. *AFP*

INQBOX

Question of the Week

Do you think the planned shift from a presidential to a parliamentary-federal form of government will solve the current crisis?

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vie fall way behind

ads British Open; er shooting a 75

tough for teenager Paula Creamer, who shields herself ough the sixth fairway. REUTERS

birdies lead on Sophie

r as a posi-

n start flying es really dif- ting. It was a

stroke victo- for her second LPGA triumph of the season, called the day "pretty brutal."

"It felt like we went through all the seasons out there," she said. "I hit some good shots, I made some poor decisions."

Jang, meanwhile, is after a first pro victory in her sixth season on the LPGA tour.

"I think about winning every week but that is not really working so I am not going to think about winning this week," the 25-year-old South Korean said. "I am just going to try to maintain my position." *AP*

Woods 7 down

ve a round like

and five others ond round two kely leader.

rst round at the is first in 1997, rnament-record straight rounds on here in 2002, d and third the

"I didn't play awful, that's the great thing," Woods said. "I'll just go ahead and handle my business (Friday) and if I get something out of my round, I'll be fine."

If Woods doesn't, he will be in danger of missing the cut for the second time this year. He missed the cut in May at the Byron Nelson Championship, the first time in more than seven years he left a tournament before it ended. *AP*

UM trips AMA for 76th win

DEFENDING champion University of Manila hurdled its biggest challenge yet, beating upset-conscious AMA Computer University, 5-79, for its third straight win—and 76th overall—in the 2005 NAASCU men's basketball tournament at the UM gym.

The Hawks went to five-year veteran Ryan Regalado for the much-needed firepower to frustrate the Titans and post a 3-0 record.

Regalado, at 5-10 the team's most dependable scorer, scattered 0 of his tournament-high 36 points in the second half to power the Hawks to victory and a share of the lead with STI College.

Regalado finished with seven three-point shots, the most by any player so far.

Dan Vergara led three other mainstays in double figures for the titans of coach Andy de Guzman with 18 points.

UM completed a sweep by beating AMA, 92-86, in the junior division.

St. Clare demolished University of Makati, 93-61, in the other junior match.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① STEALTH
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF

② WEDDING CRASHERS
MTRCB PG-13
11.15, 1:45, 4 15, 6 45, 9 15 LMF

③ HERBIE FULLY LOADED
MTRCB GP
12 40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

④ THE ISLAND
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 4 00, 7.00, 10.00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE STEALTH
MTRCB PG-13 12 25, 3 25, 6 25, 9 25 LMF
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STEALTH PG13 12:55,3:25,5:55,8:25	HERBIE GP 12:50,3:10 WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 5:55,8:25	WEDDING CRASHERS PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
THE ISLAND PG13 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00	THE MACHINIST R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:20

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1	THE ISLAND 11:20, 2:20, 5:20 8:20, 11:00 PG-13
2	STEALTH 11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3	WEDDING CRASHERS 11:55, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:35 PG-13
4	D' ANOTHERS 12:40, 3:00, 5:00 7:40, 10:00 GP

3RD WEEK
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Jennifer Love Hewitt Paul Nicholls

If Only
What if... life gives you a second chance... to love the one you lost?

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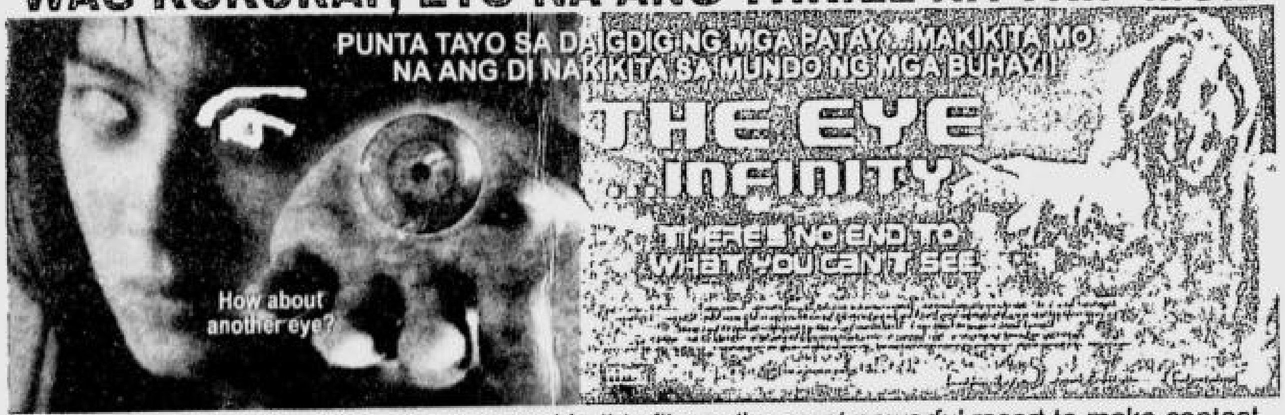

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12:30 p.m. Sa North Diversion Road Dennis Marasigan	1.00 p.m. Sa North Diversion Road Dennis Marasigan
2:30 p.m. Anak ng Tinapa Jon Red	3:00 p.m. Sandalang Bahay Mark Gary & Denise Reyes
4:00 p.m. Dilim Topel Lee	5:00 p.m. Sitak Liza Cornejo
6:00 p.m Sandalang Bahay Mark Gary & Denise Reyes	7:00 p.m. Dilim Topel Lee
8:00 p.m. Ang Anak ni Brocka Sigfried Barros-Sanchez	9:00 p.m. Anak ng Tinapa Jon Red
9:30 p.m. Sa North Diversion Road Dennis Marasigan	

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the podium 633-8976
1 STEALTH
12:35FS/01:05MF/03:40/06:15
08:15LFS/09.00LMF/11:00END
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
03:30FS/04:00MF/06:25
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END

manila
FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30
09.15LFS/09.40LMF/11.40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 FANTASTIC OUR
07:15FS/07.30MF/09:18LFS/09.30LMF/11:20END
2 THE ISLAND
10:55FS/11 10MF/01 45/04 20/06 55
09:10LFS/09 30LMF/11.45END
3 STEALTH
10:30FS/10:30MF/12 42/02 54/05.06/07:18
09:18LFS/09 30LFS/11 30END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 THE ISLAND
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 IF ONLY
7 WEDDING CRASHER
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 STEALTH
11 THE MACHINIST
12 CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 THE ISLAND
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 STEALTH
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 IF ONLY
11 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12 EVIL DEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 STEALTH
2 IF ONLY
3 WEDDING CRASHERS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 MAN OF THE HOUSE
7 THE ISLAND
8 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MACHINIST
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3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 STEALTH
5 WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 WEDDING CRASHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
11 EVIL DEAD
12 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY STA MESA
1 STEALTH
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 D'ANOTHERS
6 ICE PRINCESS
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 NEW POLICE STORY
10 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
8 IF ONLY
9 THE ISLAND
10 D' ANOTHERS

SM SAN LAZARO
1 STEALTH
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 THE ISLAND
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 IF ONLY
6 D'ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
D'ANOTHERS
STEALTH
THE ISLAND
WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY BICUTAN
STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
WEDDING CRASHERS
4 THE ISLAND

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 STEALTH
2 EVIL DEAD
THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 NEW POLICE STORY
D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 THE ISLAND
6 D'ANOTHERS
7 NEW POLICE STORY
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
THE ISLAND
2 D'ANOTHERS
EVIL DEAD
STEALTH

SM CITY BAGUIO
D' ANOTHERS
2 THE ISLAND
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
HOUSE OF WAX

SM CITY MARILAO
1 STEALTH
2 D'ANOTHERS
D' ANOTHERS
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY LUCENA
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
D'ANOTHERS
3 THE ISLAND
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BATANGAS
D' ANOTHERS
D'ANOTHERS
FANTASTIC FOUE
NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
MEW POLICE STORY
RESERVED
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 D'ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA

SM CITY DAVAO
STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 D'ANOTHERS
4 CREEP
5 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NEW POLICE STORY
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND

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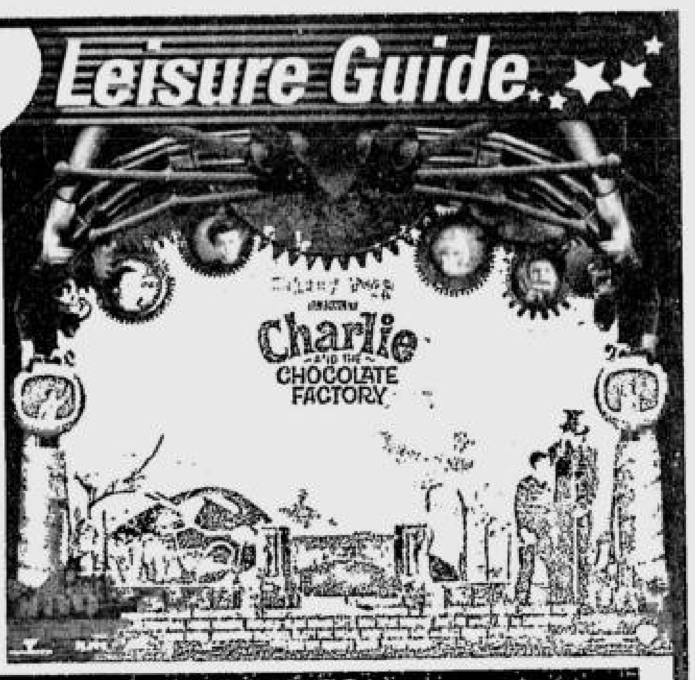
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

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P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 THE ISLAND, STEALTH FANTASTIC 4
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

STEALTH
12:40/2:30/3:10/5:00/5:40/7:30/8:10/10:00
WEDDING CRASHERS
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
IF ONLY
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
D' ANOTHERS
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
THE MACHINIST
1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
STEALTH
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE ISLAND
1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
① D' ANOTHERS 11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
② STEALTH 11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15
③ FANTASTIC FOUR 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
④ THE ISLAND 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
⑤ WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
July 30 ADMU vs UP Jrs 10am UE vs Adu Jrs 12nn
ADMU vs UP Srs 2pm UE vs Adu Srs 4pm
UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 August 25, Thursday 8 pm
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS
PROMOS
Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galera! Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!
Araneta Center & LRT 2 Ride & Dine promo ongoing until October 19. Buy an LRT stored value card & get P350 worth of FREE food items at the Gateway Food Express!

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CINEMA 2 THE ISLAND PG13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 STEALTH PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
CINEMA 4 STEALTH PG13 12:15, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50
CINEMA 5 WEDDING CRASHERS - PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
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September 2 & 3 MOJO FLY 8:30PM
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2 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS PG13
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED GP
4 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) STEALTH PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) STEALTH
2 (SDDS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED
3 (DTS) WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 (GOLD DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS
5 (GOLD DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
6 (GOLD SDDS) STEALTH
7 (GOLD DOLBY) THE ISLAND
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 IF ONLY
10 EVIL DEAD

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2 (DOLBY) STEALTH
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHERS
4 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS

CINEMA 2000
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DTS) CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
4 STEALTH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) STEALTH
3 (DTS) THE ISLAND
4 CAMPUS GHOST STORY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS) HERBIE FULLY LOADED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE ISLAND
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DOLBY) HERBIE FULLY LOADED

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

Universal (Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 EVIL DEAD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STEALTH
5 D' ANOTHERS

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) STEALTH
6 THE ISLAND

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY)
2 RESERVED

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) THE ISLAND
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
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5 SOON TO OPEN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 THE ISLAND
3 RESERVED
4 EVIL DEAD

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 HOUSE OF WAX

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 (DTS EX) THE ISLAND
4 MONSTER IN LAW

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 D' ANOTHER
2 MONSTER IN LAW
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 D' ANOTHER
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DOLBY) NEW POLICE STORY
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 D' ANOTHERS

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
3 HIBLA
4 (DTS) RING OF NIBELUNGS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STEALTH
2 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
3 (DTS) THE ISLAND
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 D' ANOTHERS

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 NEW POLICE STORY
3 HERBIE FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
2 WEDDING CRASHER

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

PFF-RED RIBBON TILT

South Hill booters in hot start

DEFENDING champion South Hill School of Los Baños opened its title defense by demolishing host Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High School, 4-1, in the 2005 PFF-Red Ribbon U-15 Championship which kicked off its third season last weekend at the Capitol Football Field in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

In other matches, Alaminos FC whipped Caritas Don Bosco, 4-0; San Pablo FC routed Lumban Elementary School, 7-0; Sta Cruz FC blanked Caritas Don Bosco, 3-0; Lumban beat Colegio San Agustin Biñan, 3-0; Pedro Guevarra Memorial downed Alaminos FC, 3-0; and Sta. Cruz FC massacred San Pablo FC, 13-0.

Sta. Cruz also ripped San Agustin Biñan, 3-0, the next day.

Eight squads from schools and clubs in Laguna are seeing action in the tournament organized by the Laguna Football Association, headed by its president Jun Pacificador and general-secretary Alan Payson.

Special guests during the opening ceremony were PFF president Johnny Romualdez, Red Ribbon Bakeshop's special projects manager Edmon Domingo and Laguna Sports and Games Development Office representatives Tess Trinidad and Jun Mantupar.

Jaca, Lunas topbill Cebu fight card tonight

FORMER Pacific Boxing Federation junior featherweight champ Jimrex Jaca and ex-Pan Asia Boxing Association flyweight king Rolly Lunas try to prove they still have it when they go up against separate rivals tonight at the Barili Gymnasium in Barili, Cebu.

The 22-year-old, Jaca (22-1-1, 9 KO's), who last saw action in Tokyo last May, fights PBF no. 4 lightweight contender Renato Maghuyop. It will be Jaca's first fight as a junior lightweight, as he has grown out of the featherweight mold, according to his manager Rex "Wakee" Salud.

The companion main event pits Rolly Lunas against Cagayan De Oro journeyman Jaime Acerda in another 10-round bout.

The rest of the pro bouts pit Jerope Mercado versus Jun Mala; and Allan Jay Tunacao against Jomar Labiogo.

Preceding the pro encounters are amateur tiffs pitting Barili boys against Cebu fighters: Bernardo Rio Jr. goes up against Jonathan Nacua; Rolito Ningasca trades leathers with Leo Stamped; Franklin Undaloc meets Whight Gono; Wendel Sacil takes on Titing Morales; while Roland Paras slugs it out with Alex Baricuatro.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Tanco Cup on at Ateneo

A FOOTBALL festival will be held today and tomorrow at the pitches of the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights. The Blue Guards Football Club are staging the Bong Tanco Cup in seven-a-side games in the men's open, senior semi-retired players, women and children categories.

Petron beach volley starts today

A STINT to the national finals in October and bragging rights as beach volley queens of the third leg await the winners of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament which, for the first time, will be held in Manila beginning today at 1 p.m.

Venue of the two-day volleyball fiesta, held in cooperation with the Manila Sports Council (Masco) headed by Ali Atienza, is the Baywalk near the Manila Yacht Club.

Atienza will make the ceremonial toss together with his brother Kim Atienza, Petron's Charmaine Canillas and organizer Tisha Abundo.

Also expected to attend today's opening rites are Obet Pagdanganan, chair of the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee, and representatives of sponsors, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Villa de Oro, Acsat, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball).

"I expect the Baywalk to be teeming with enthusiastic Manila crowd out to cheer for their favorite pairs," said Abundo, a former Philippine Sports Commissioner.

The matches will be determined via the drawing of lots at 10 a.m., to be supervised by Abundo and her deputy Monique Melencio.

The first leg of the tournament was won by the Philippine Army pair of Patricia Siatan and Jennifer Bohawe. Siatan and Bohawe will be joined in the finals by the Philippine Navy tandem of Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena, the second leg winners, who were also last year's national titlists.

Gorres seeks OPBF shot vs Thai tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

Z "THE DREAM" Gorres will try to eliminate the final hurdle to a crack at the Oriental Pacific Boxing Federation superflyweight title when he goes up against ex-PABA junior fly champion Deeden Kengkarun of Thailand in a 10-round clash tonight at the New San Andres Civic and Sports Center.

GORRES favored to prevail tonight

If victorious, Gorres' handlers, led by lawyer Rudy Salud and Cebuano sportsman Tony Aldeguer, plan to go for the regional 115-lb crown in the southpaw's next fight.

It won't be an easy task, though, as Gorres is up against a Thai known for his choking fighting style.

Still Gorres is favored in his first fight since stopping his rival in the undercard of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales clash in Las Vegas several months ago.

Meanwhile, two of the Viva Hot Babes, who graced yesterday's weigh-in will be the round card girls tonight while Viva recording star Jennifer Bautista will sing the national anthem before the main bout.

The refurbished, air-conditioned fight venue is in the same block as the famous San Andres fruit market.

The rest of the card pits Donnie Nietes versus Nino Suelo; Edmund Velayo against Rey Orais; Isidro Lorona versus Lito Sisnorio; Rodel Quilaton against Gerard Ubatay; and Rey Caitom against Janrey Canete.

HOME & AWAY TENNIS

Eliminations topnotcher PCA picked over V. Verde

ELIMINATION-ROUND topnotcher and heavy favorite Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) begins its semifinal bid today in the first Prince Home and Away Interclub Team Tennis 2005.

Club	Win	Loss	Quotient
PCA	9	1	52-18
Manda	7	3	43-27
BF	6	4	39-31
V. Verde	6	4	37-33
Eusebio	2	8	26-44
Capitol	0	10	13-57

MATCHES TODAY

2 p.m.—Valle Verde at PCA

4 p.m.—BF at Mandaluyong

PCA finished with nine victories against one loss in the double-round eliminations and earned the home-court advantage in its 2 p.m. duel with Valle Verde Country Club, which finished fourth with a 6-4 record.

Mandaluyong Tennis Club will also enjoy the home-court advantage after finishing at No. 2 with a 7-3 record.

Mandaluyong battles BF Tennis Club, which piled up a 6-4 slate like Valle Verde, at 4 p.m.

The event, supported by Yellow Cab, Toby's Sports & Hobbies and Nassau Tennis Balls, will award trophies and medals. All participating clubs will receive Prince goodie bags and Toby's Sports products. Special prizes will be given to the Most Valuable Player (MVP) and the Best Doubles Team.

At the close of the eliminations last Saturday, PCA defeated Valle Verde; Mandaluyong eliminated Eusebio Tennis Club, and BF knocked out Capitol Tennis Club.

Autocross GP Round 1 reels off in Alabang

THE COUNTRY'S best autocrossers showcase their wares today in the Team Nitro Motorsports 2005 Autocross Grand Prix Series Round 1 at the Water Garden parking lot of the Festival Supermall in Alabang.

Drivers will compete in at least 14 classes in Newbie, Novice, Experienced, Pro and College Autocross Racing (CAR) categories with three podium winners for each class and four category champions.

The first to sixth placers will earn points leading to the Auto Extreme 2005 Autocross Grand Prix on Nov. 24.

Driver registration for all classes starts at 8 a.m. and the race begins promptly at 10 a.m. Especially designed trophies and premium product prizes will be awarded on stage immediately after the race.

More than 100 entries are expected in Round 1 presented by Festival Supermall, Auto Extreme, Wheelers Club International, Symtech Auto Engineering and Bridgestone, which features its new Potenza G III, the sporty, speedy and stylish tires used in F1. Potenza III, in sizes 15 to 20 inches, will be on display during the event.

NAPA Batteries, Khaos, PLDT myDSL, Wheelers Club International will also set up promotional tents while Aero Med Ambulance Transport will be on site for first aid emergency treatment.

WAVE 89.1, 99.5 RT, dwDM 95.5, NET 25, C! and Tech & Tuner Magazines, Motorsports Review are the media partners for the event. The French Baker, Air Philippines, Aqua Soft, R-M Diamont Paints, Concept One, H & R, Dipic, Good Team Printing, Rota Wheels, Silverwind, Coca Cola, Triplex and KIX are the event's supporters.

Round 1 also introduces a new category, the CAR, which is open to currently enrolled college students, at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license.

CAR drivers must have a ride, two-point seatbelt, crash helmet and pass the technical and safety inspection. The CAR category will have three skill level classes—Novice, Experienced and Pro.

Suico . . .

atwichean in the fourth round in Lapu-Lapu City.

Meanwhile, RP junior welter champ Bart Abapo scored yet another important win in South Korea when he prevailed on an eighth-round technical decision over Korean champ Dong Geun Jang the other night in Ilsan, Kyungkido, Korea.

Abapo was leading most of the way before the referee decided to stop the fight owing to two cuts suffered by the Filipino from accidental headbutts.

Abapo is slated to return to the country tonight, according to his manager Antonio L. Aldeguer. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

Kwok tops Milo Checkmate

MALCOLM Kwok downed Angelo Claveria in the sixth and final round to rule the junior division in the final evaluation tournament of the fourth series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic last weekend at J&F Divino Building, along Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City. A grade three student of Jubilee Christian Academy, the nine-year-old Kwok wound up with a perfect score of six points to claim the junior title. Seven year old Carlo Caranyagan won the under-12 section.

Las Piñas derby under way

ALL ROADS lead to the Las Piñas Coliseum tonight as the Pamigay Premyo 3-Cock Derby unfolds with more than 50 exciting fights on tap and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Participants will get a bonus of P1,000 per win while the champions get two refrigerators. Entry fee is P4,400. Preparations are also under way for the Las Pinas 6-Stag Derby on Aug. 25 and 27 with P1 million at stake. Entry fee is P15,000. Screening of stags will start in the first week of August, said former mayor Nene Aguilar who is hosting the fund-raising affair. Proceeds will be donated to the Clean and Green project of Las Piñas. For inquiries, call 873-1040 or 874-3910. Stags with wingbands of NCA, GCAP, GF-BAN, NGBA, LGBA, BCAP, UGBA, Pagba, KGBA and CGVBA will also be accepted. Weight limits are from 1.75 kgs. to 2.2 kgs.

Nat'l RAY Showdown slated

THE 19TH annual National RAY Showdown 7-Stag Derby, one of the longest-running stagfests in the country, will be staged anew at Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 3, 5 and 7 with Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu as hosts. Roligon's screening committee, headed by Mimi Itchon and Juancho Aguirre, will start screening of stags (farm-to-farm) on Aug. 5. Screening will also be held at the Roligon office on Aug. 21, 28, Sept. 3 and 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meanwhile, the Abot Kaya 4-Cock Derby sizzles at 2 p.m. on Monday featuring more than 100 fights. Promoter Rolly Ligon will again be assisted by popular *llamadores* Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. Submission of weights is on Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

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JOSEPH FIENNES
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CONNIE NIELSEN
is Margaret, a member of the Secret Underground Movement. The Catholic aid worker assisting the prisoners' medical needs.

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ASIAN SLOTS AT STAKE

adidas Streetball finals today

THE 2005 adidas Streetball Challenge comes down to a deciding weekend beginning today at the Festival Mall in Alabang with eight teams clashing not only for the national crowns in two divisions but also for precious slots in the Asian adidas Streetball Finals slated here in September.

There are actually 16 squads competing in the four-category championships, sponsored by leading sports apparel adidas, but only the seniors and girls divisions are staking berths in the Asian Finals slated Sept. 3-4 at the Araneta Coliseum.

NBA star Tracy McGrady of the Houston Rockets will be the main guest in the Asian Streetball Finals along with Portland guard Sebastian Telfair and New Orleans guard JR Smith.

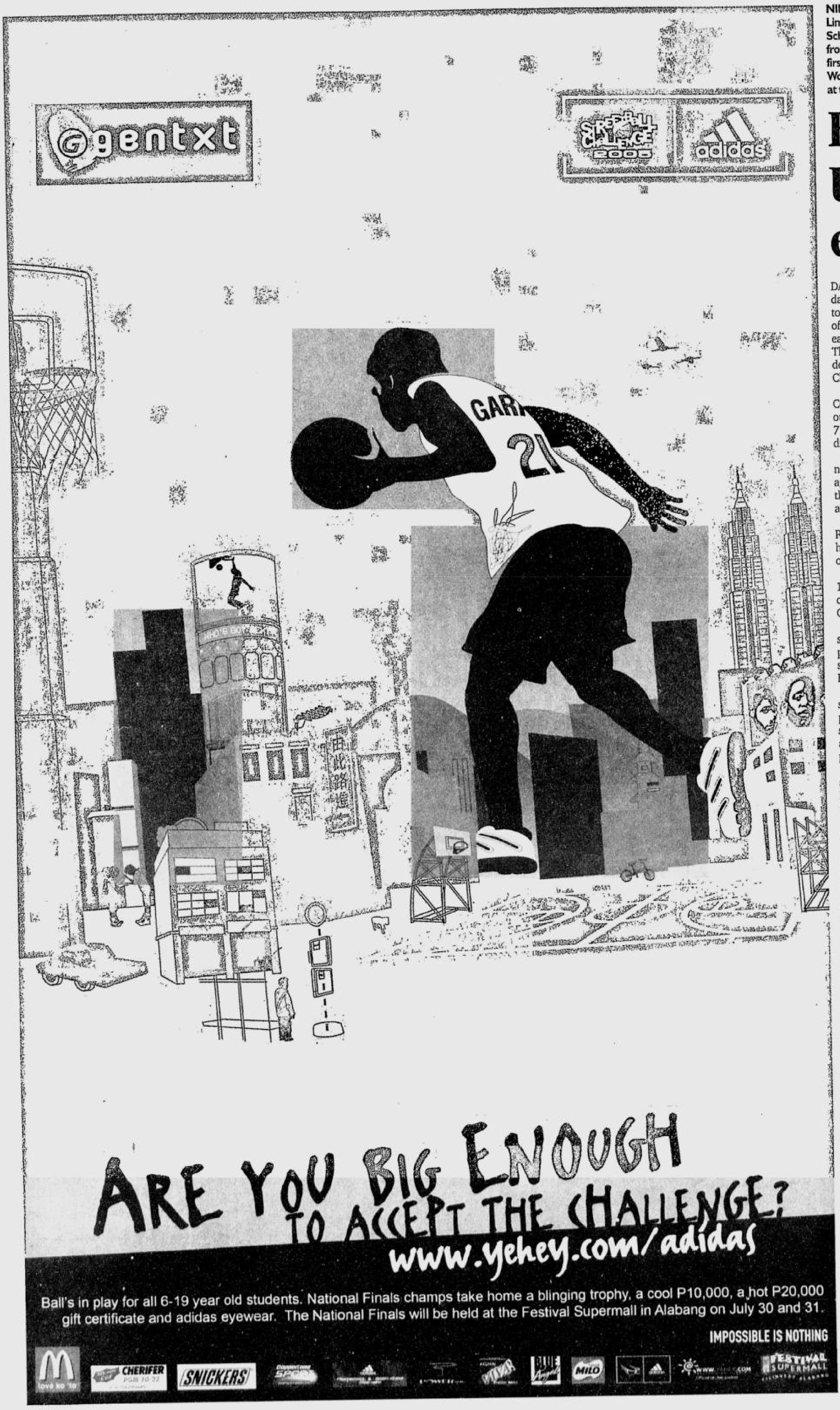
Still, action in the midgets and juniors categories are expected to be fierce with the winner in each division winning P10,000 in cash and P20,000 worth of gift certificates from adidas.

The two-day finals ending tomorrow starts at 9 a.m. with PBA and UAAP stars gracing the event.

Pampanga, Cebu and Davao have the most number of teams with three each while La Salle-Greenhills sent squads in the midgets and juniors divisions of the event co-presented by Globe Gentxt.

But focus will be on San Beda, the most fancied team in the senior category which boasts of 6-4 and 6-3 players in Jay-R Taganas and Rogemar Manor. Completing the NCR champion squad are Eduardo Tecson and John Carlos Hermida Jr.

They will be challenged by a crack field, including talented squads from Holy Angel University of Pampanga, West Negros College of Bacolod and Barangay Ma-A of Davao, in the tournament backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.



Ball's in play for all 6-19 year old students. National Finals champs take home a blinging trophy, a cool P10,000, a hot P20,000 gift certificate and adidas eyewear. The National Finals will be held at the Festival Supermall in Alabang on July 30 and 31.

NIÑO dela Cruz, grandson of Sen. Alfredo S. Lim and chair of the organizing Philippine Schools Athletic Association, reads a message from the senator during the opening rites of the first San Miguel Corp.-Sen. Alfredo Lim Women's Basketball and Volleyball Championship at the Almendras Gym in Davao City.

Holy Cross, UMin take early lead

DAVAO CITY—Multi-titled University of Mindanao (Main Campus) notched two straight victories in women's basketball even as Holy Cross of Davao took the early lead in volleyball as the early favorites played true to form at the start on Thursday of the 1st San Miguel Corp.-Sen. Alfredo S. Lim Women's Basketball and Volleyball Championships in separate venues here.

The UM Cardinals overwhelmed Assumption College of Davao, 80-43, in the opener and then outlasted arch rival Rizal Memorial Colleges, 73-71, to pace the field in basketball at the Almendras Gym.

Charita Baysa, UM's top gunner, led the Cardinals in their first two games, scoring 20 points against the Assumption Warriors and 18 against the RMC Knights Blue Belles. Roro Maratas added 16 and 17 points.

Baysa also scored the winning basket against RMC in the dying seconds, after the Blue Belles had roared back from a 49-56 deficit at the end of the third quarter.

Earlier, the Blue Belles crushed UM Tagum, 100-39, for a 1-1 mark going into the second day of the tournament sponsored by San Miguel Corp. and named in honor of Senator Lim.

But it was the Warriors, the only high school squad in the six-team field, who turned in a surprising performance, beating newcomer University of Southern Philippines, 92-36, to tie the Blue Belles at 1-1.

The Warriors were led by freshman high school student Jennefer Mayol, who had 22 points in a losing cause against UM Main, and sisters and high school seniors Jacqueline Fleur and Flordilyne Joy Zuñiga, who had 16 and 14 points, respectively, against the USEP Eagles.

UM Tagum and Ateneo de Davao joined RMC and Assumption at 1-1. After losing to the Blue Belles, the UM (Tagum) Maroons dumped Ateneo de Davao Knights, 72-50.

The Knights vented their ire on the Eagles, 74-24.

Over at the UM Gym on Matina Street, Holy Cross of Davao, which placed second behind La Salle in the 2005 PRISAA held last February, racked up two wins in volleyball, blanking UM (Main), 25-21, 25-17 (2-0), and crushing Jose Maria College, 25-7, 25-20 (2-0).

UM (Main) made it an even 1-1 mark following a 25-15, 25-22 (2-0) victory over sister team UM (Tagum).

UM Tagum earlier outplayed JMC, 25-17, 12-25, 25-21 (2-1) and then dealt JMC its second loss in as many games.

The tournament was ushered in by a simple opening ceremony with Councilor Pilar Braga delivering a message from Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Niño dela Cruz, chair of the organizing PSAA, reading a message from his senator grandfather.

Suico departs Tuesday; Abapo wins in Korea

ORIENTAL and Pacific Boxing Federation super-featherweight king Randy Suico is scheduled to leave for Japan on Tuesday for a one-week training for bigger fights ahead.

Suico, earlier groomed to face Erik Morales before the Mexican's camp pulled out of the fight, will be joined by trainer Juanito Ablaca and boxer Cesar Yarte.

The WBC no. 4 Suico will most likely defend his OPBF title in Cebu, possibly against the mandatory challenger from Indonesia.

The 25-year-old Suico last saw action on April 27, knocking out Thai Muangfahlek Ki-

SUICO/ A29

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Marilyn Monroe, ultimate screen goddess

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN most people die, they soon fade into oblivion, remembered only by family and close friends. Some entertainment luminaries, however, manage to "outlive" this fuzzy fate.

Take Marilyn Monroe. She dies in 1962, and yet, many people still hold her up as a thespic icon who was made memorable by her unique combination of kittenish sex appeal and surprisingly sensitive performances as a dramatic actress and comedienne.

Described by some as "the ultimate screen goddess," Monroe was born in 1926 as Norma Jean Mortenson. Her mother was unmarried and unstable, so little Norma Jean was raised in foster homes.

Dead-end street

She got married when she was only in her teens, worked in a munitions factory, found that kind of life a dead-end street, took careful measure of her physical charms, and modeled for pin-ups.

Eventually, she was screen-tested, cast in a few bit parts—but dropped by Twentieth Century Fox before she was 20.

She went from studio to studio, struggled to energize her career with a few small roles, until she made her mark in 1950 in "The Asphalt Jungle."

After audiences finally got a good enough look at her in her more substantial role in that film, her career perked up. Some veteran Hollywood observers even described her rise after 1950 as "meteoric."

Before Marilyn, popular beauties on US film screens ranged from Marlene Dietrich to Rita Hayworth, Greta Garbo to Betty Grable, Carole Lombard to Ida Lupino, and Ingrid Bergman to Jean Harlow.

New trend

—So many luscious women! And yet, when Marilyn finally established her "brand" of sexiness, she stood out and started a new trend that many others, like Diana Dors, Brigette Bardot and Jayne Mansfield, tried to ride on, but weren't really able to.

What Marilyn had that they couldn't approximate was her subtle mix of wanton sexiness and childlike cluelessness. Later, it became clearer that Marilyn was putting it on, or elaborating on it for effect.

But, whatever the nature of its provenance, it worked wonderfully well, and made Monroe a genuine and unique icon of the American screen.

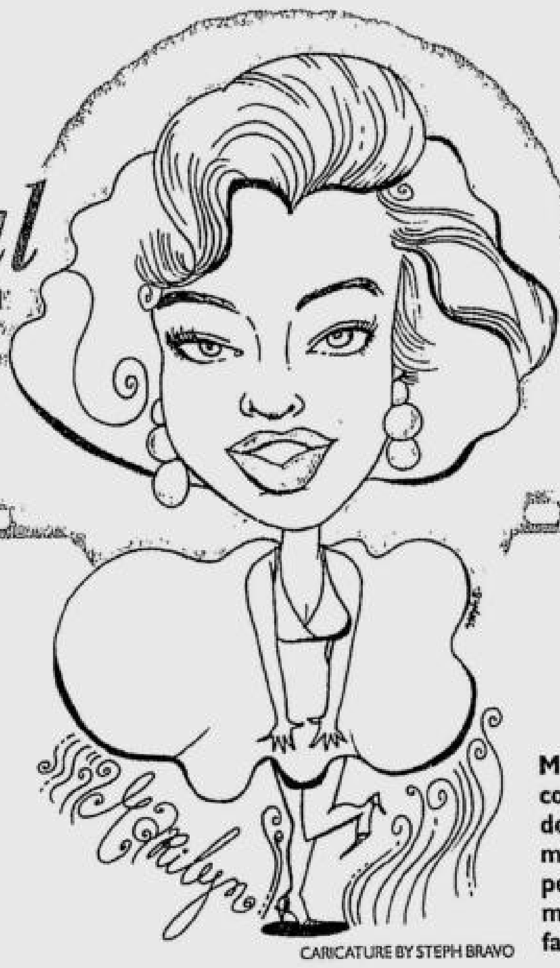
Monroe reached her apotheosis as the definitive blonde siren in 1953's "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes." Compared to that delicious cinematic vehicle, much of her subsequent movies were deemed to be banal, but her impact continued to be spectacular.

Chanteuse

She is best remembered as the awkward chanteuse in "Bus Stop," the fantasy girl in "The Seven-Year Itch," the wounded bombshell in "Some Like It Hot," and the sad divorcee in "The Misfits."

Truth to tell, Marilyn's career was already on the downswing in the early '60s, but her controversial death was nevertheless mourned as a personal loss by millions of film fans.

They mourned the loss, not just of a star, but of an era—a filmic period when on-screen sex was flirtatious rather than gross, and when the movies' top blonde bombshell could also be acclaimed for some delightful and insightful performances!



CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

MONROE. Her controversial death was mourned as a personal loss by millions of film fans.

MONTANO. International stardom beckons—or, does it?

Hollywood misses an opportunity

By Behn Cervantes

ONE of the more upbeat developments on the film scene here these past two years was the announcement that Cesar Montano was cast in a major Hollywood film, "The Great Raid." The Philippines has long been dreaming of a major international breakthrough *ala* Jackie Chan and Jet Li. Mainland Chinese actors have made a splash in fantastic martial arts *cum* adventure movies, some of which have even merited Academy Award nominations.

Will Cesar Montano follow in their successful footsteps? We doubt it. Except for Hong Kong superstar Jackie Chan, the international market pays to see Asian genre films like karate and other martial arts forms, rather than the actors themselves.

Unprecedented

Bruce Lee became synonymous with karate, being the pioneer screen proponent of that exotic martial arts form. Therefore, Lee enjoyed an unprecedented but aborted (by death) success as an action star.

HOLLYWOOD/ A2-3

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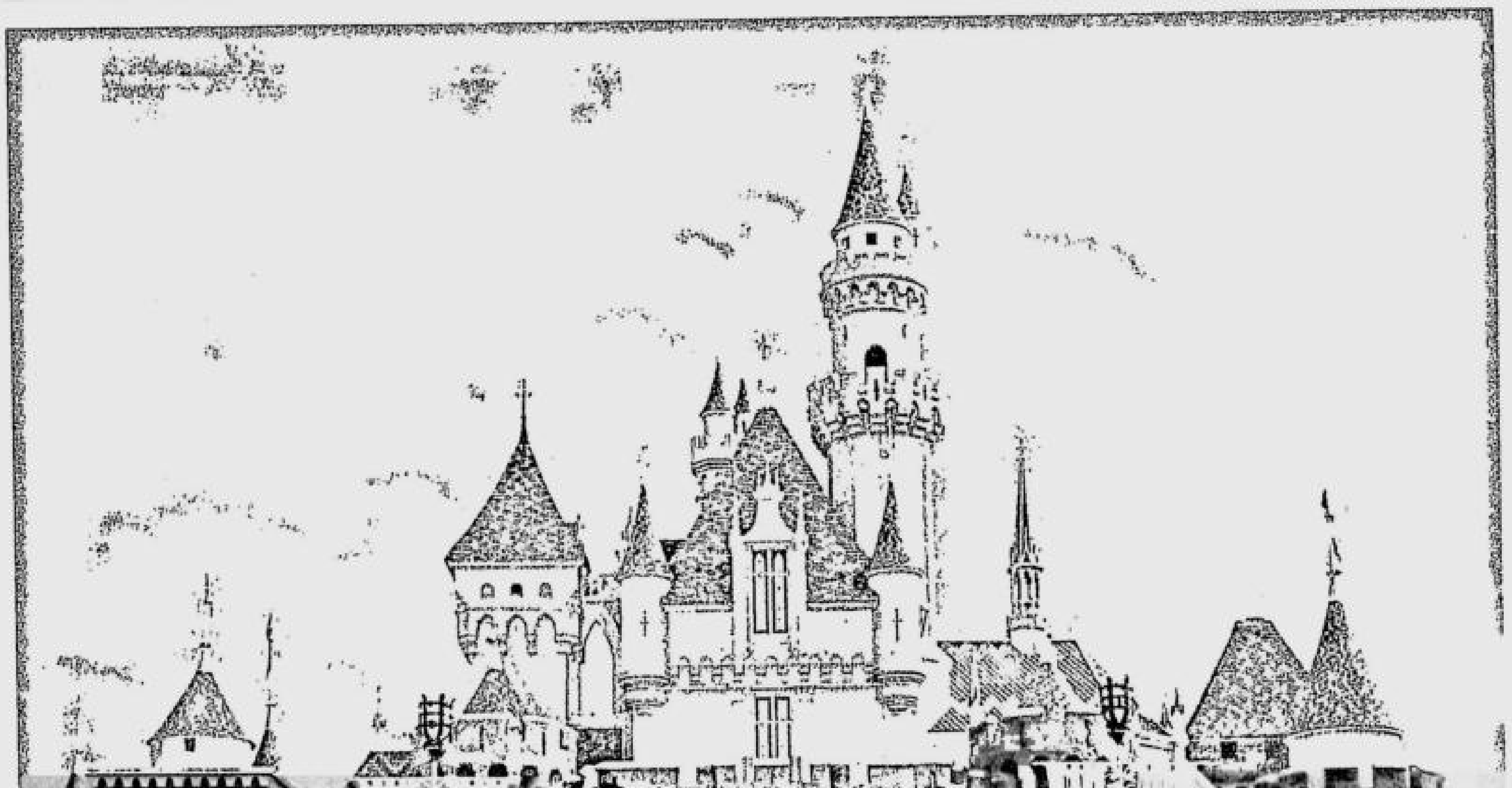

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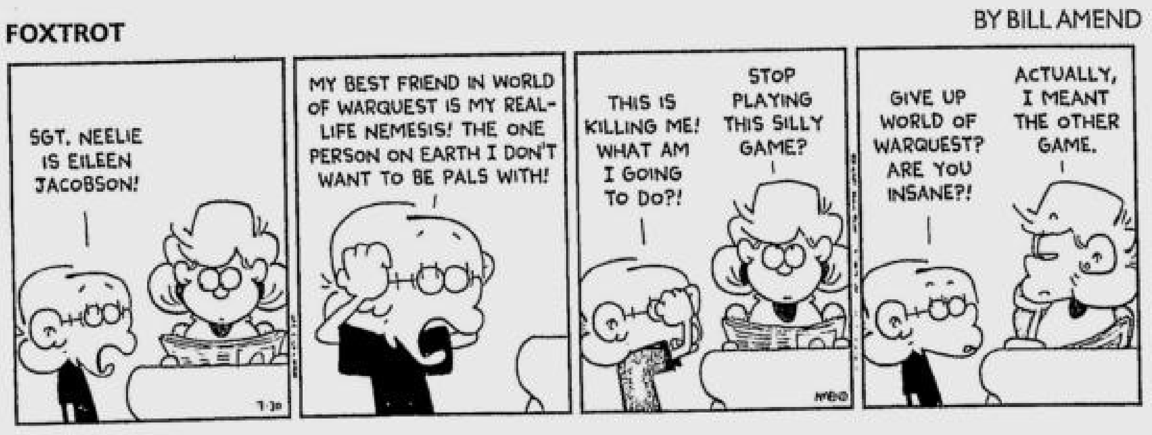
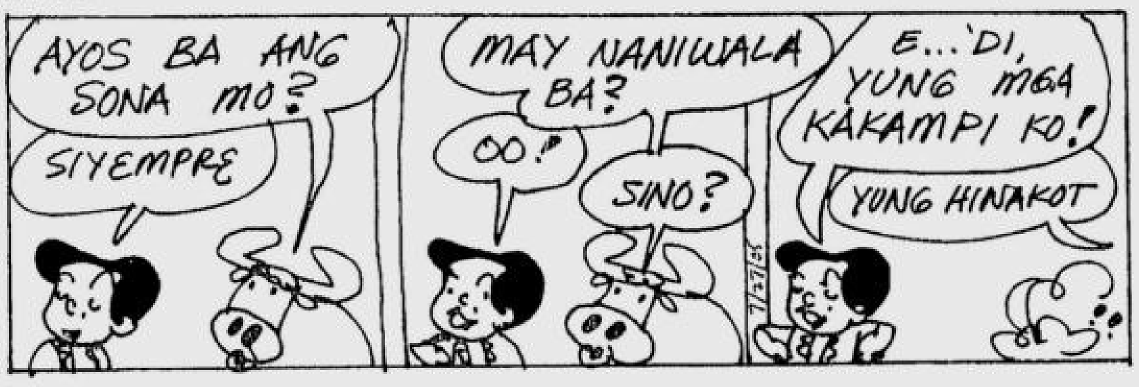
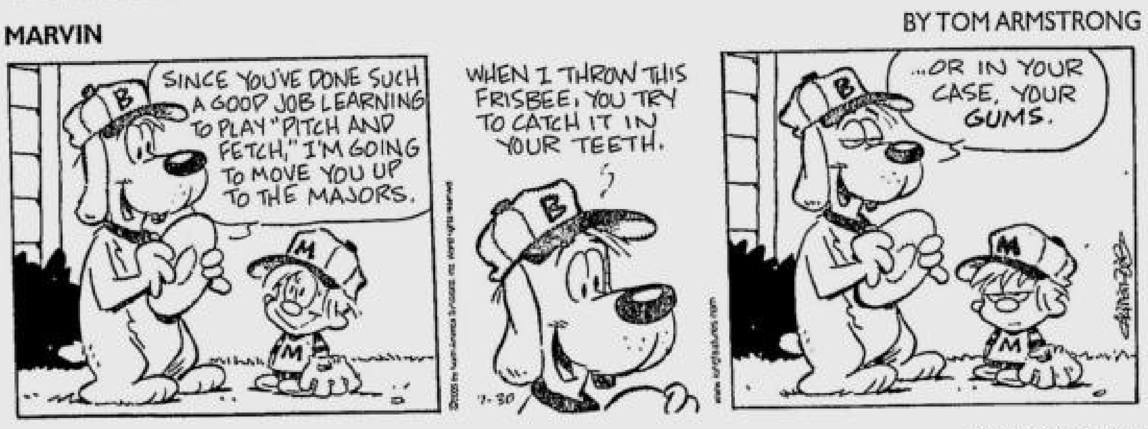
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


SGT. NEELIE IS EILEEN JACOBSON!
MY BEST FRIEND IN WORLD OF WARQUEST IS MY REAL-LIFE NEMESIS! THE ONE PERSON ON EARTH I DON'T WANT TO BE PALS WITH!
THIS IS KILLING ME! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
STOP PLAYING THIS SILLY GAME?
GIVE UP WORLD OF WARQUEST? ARE YOU INSANE?!
ACTUALLY, I MEANT THE OTHER GAME.

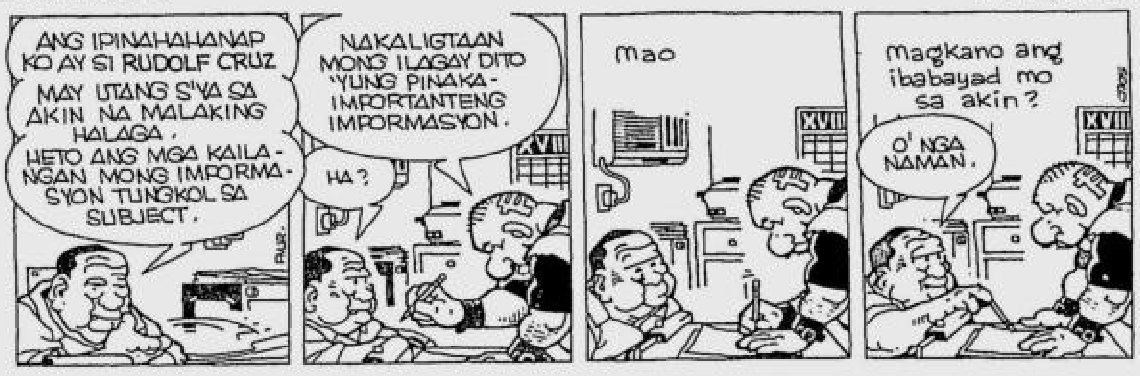
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AYOS BA ANG SONA MO?
SIYEMPRE
MAY NANIWALA BA?
OO!
SINO?
E...'DI, YUNG MGA KAKAMPI KO!
YUNG HINAKOT

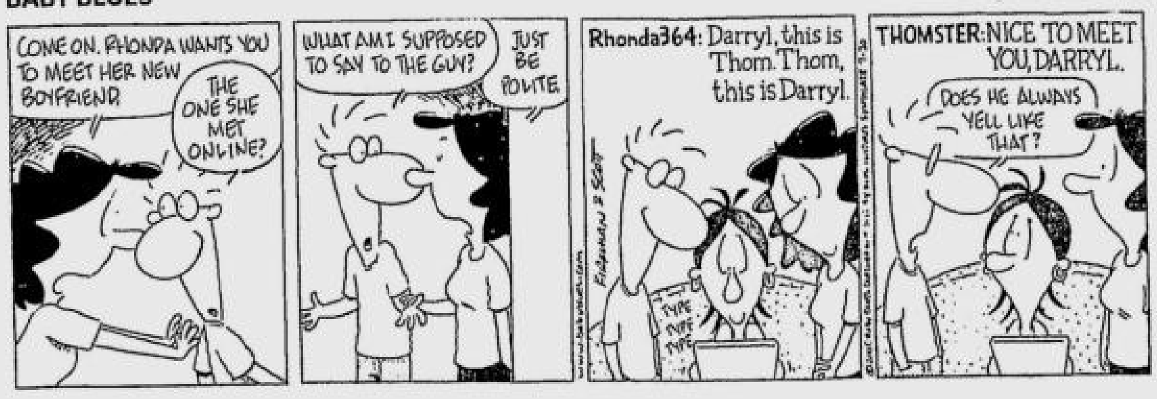
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SINCE YOU'VE DONE SUCH A GOOD JOB LEARNING TO PLAY "PITCH AND FETCH," I'M GOING TO MOVE YOU UP TO THE MAJORS.
WHEN I THROW THIS FRISBEE, YOU TRY TO CATCH IT IN YOUR TEETH.
...OR IN YOUR CASE, YOUR GUMS.

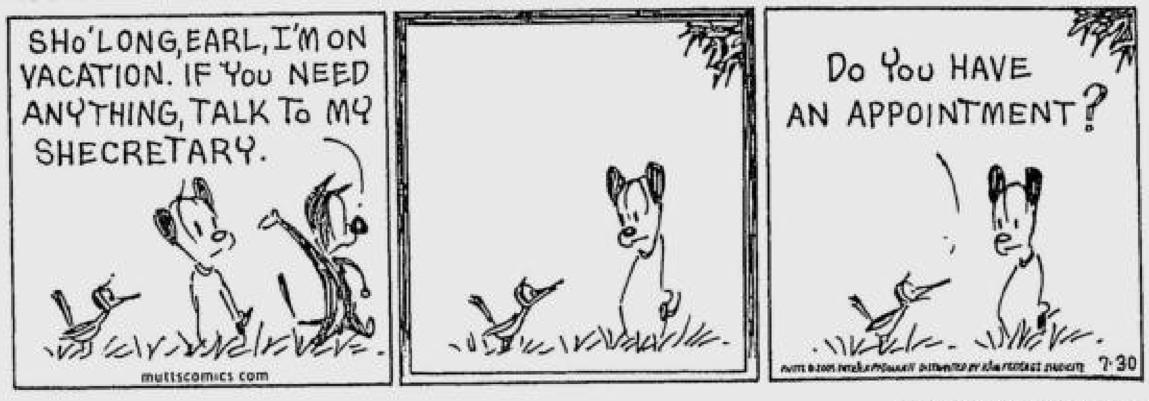
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG IPINAHAHANAP KO AY SI RUDOLF CRUZ
MAY UTANG S'YA SA AKIN NA MALAKING HALAGA.
HETO ANG MGA KAILANGAN MONG IMPORMASYON TUNGKOL SA SUBJECT.
NAKALIGTAAN MONG ILAGAY DITO 'YUNG PINAKA-IMPORTANTENG IMPORMASYON.
HA?
mao
magkano ang ibabayad mo sa akin?
O' NGA NAMAN.

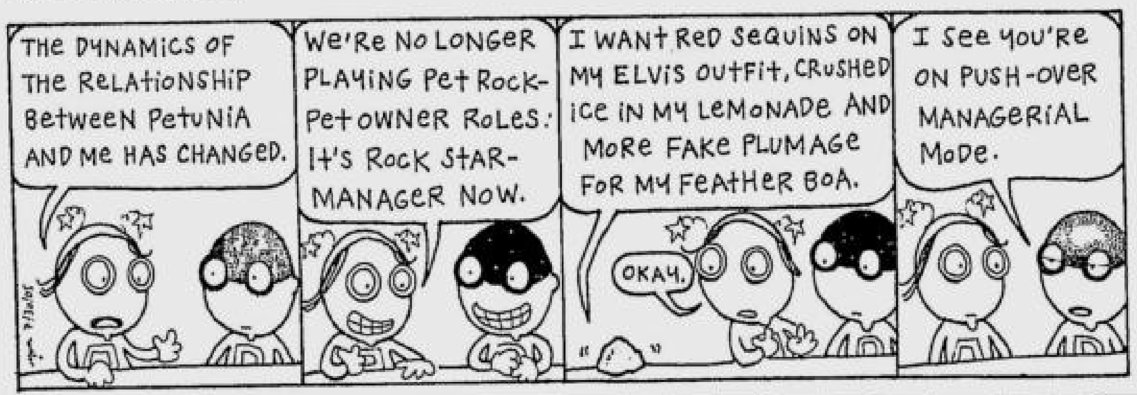
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


COME ON. RHONDA WANTS YOU TO MEET HER NEW BOYFRIEND.
THE ONE SHE MET ONLINE?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THE GUY?
JUST BE POLITE.
Rhonda364: Darryl, this is Thom. Thom, this is Darryl.
TYPE TYPE TYPE
THOMSTER: NICE TO MEET YOU, DARRYL.
DOES HE ALWAYS YELL LIKE THAT?

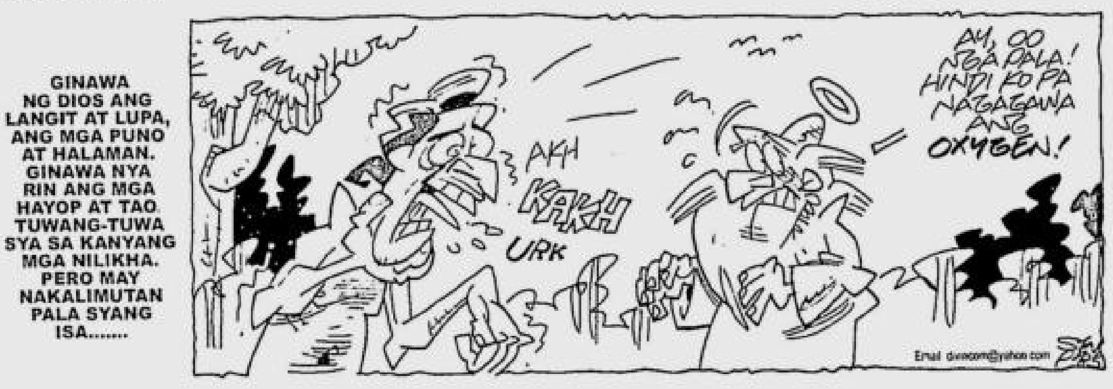
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHO'LONG, EARL, I'M ON VACATION. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, TALK TO MY SHECRETARY.
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THE DYNAMICS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PETUNIA AND ME HAS CHANGED.
WE'RE NO LONGER PLAYING PET ROCK-PET OWNER ROLES. IT'S ROCK STAR-MANAGER NOW.
I WANT RED SEQUINS ON MY ELVIS OUTFIT, CRUSHED ICE IN MY LEMONADE AND MORE FAKE PLUMAGE FOR MY FEATHER BOA.
OKAY.
I SEE YOU'RE ON PUSH-OVER MANAGERIAL MODE.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GINAWA NG DIOS ANG LANGIT AT LUPA, ANG MGA PUNO AT HALAMAN. GINAWA NYA RIN ANG MGA HAYOP AT TAO. TUWANG-TUWA SYA SA KANYANG MGA NILIKHA. PERO MAY NAKALIMUTAN PALA SYANG ISA.......
AKH
KAKH
URK
AY, OO NGA PALA! HINDI KO PA NAGAGAWA ANG OXYGEN!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You quite easily rise to top of whatever you pursue. You have high standards for yourself. You deal well with the public; you always have a positive attitude. You're a very generous person. Expect the best for yourself this year. Tons of wonderful opportunities await you! Doors that were previously locked are now open. Birthdate of: Tom Green, comedian; Lisa Kudrow, actress; Hilary Swank, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Keep in mind that increased responsibilities with children are likely in the year ahead. While this is going on, privately, you're wondering what you really and truly want to do with your life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Home repairs and renovations are likely this year. You're very focused on wanting to settle somewhere or establish a firm anchor for yourself in the world. (Good!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the next few years, you will likely have a residential or job change. Something is going to happen to change your daily experience of the world. (Be open to this.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now, you truly wonder, What matters in life? On the surface, you're wondering how to earn money. But deep down, you're thinking about your core values.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Now that Saturn is in your sign, you're in a completely new sandbox. It's a whole new world! This is a time for you to learn a lot, in every sense of word.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Start to think about how you can streamline your life. This year, some of you will be giving up possessions, jobs and relationships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel an increasing need to be part of something bigger than yourself. You want to make a difference in the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're beginning to see exactly what is working in your life—and exactly what is not working! This knowledge empowers you. You're very strong this year.

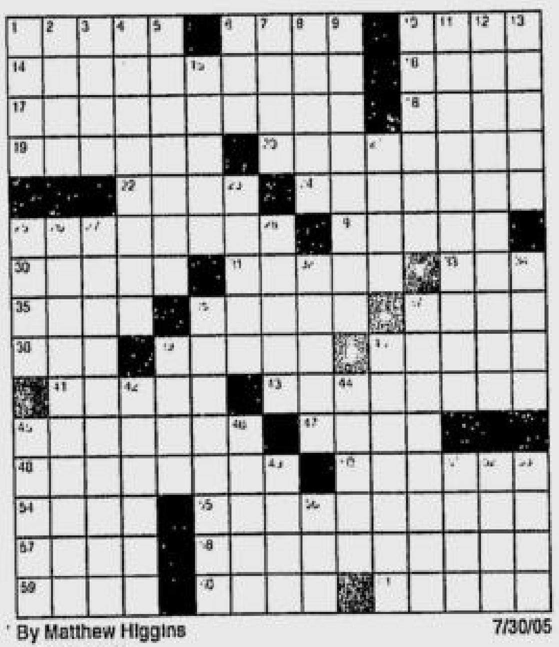
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If you can possibly make plans to get more education or training in the field of your choice, do so. You might be able to do this at some point in the next two years.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might want to pull the reins in a little, because your partner could change jobs in the next year. Something throws you back on your own resources. (You can handle this.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your closest partnerships and relationships are definitely tested this year. You have to come to terms with certain issues. Some things will fall by the wayside.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Get ready to work very hard in the next few years. Just buckle down and do it. But don't worry—it's nothing you can't handle.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
7/30/05

ACROSS
1 Hesitate to believe
6 Mountainside transportation
10 Fusses
14 Increase in value
16 On the qui _
17 Preventive measures
18 So be it!
19 NHL coach Bowman
20 Units of refraction
22 Pelvic projections
24 Sanitize
25 Hotel chain
29 Russian measure of distance
30 Run-down dwelling
31 Pariah
33 Lyricist Gershwin
35 Flair
36 Flags down
37 Wind into loops
38 Thieves' hideout
39 Mrs. Gower Champion
40 Sri __
41 Segment of a calyx
43 Bothers continually
45 Lost
47 Factual information
48 Burden
50 Legislative body
54 Bunny moms
55 Not better
57 Green Gables girl
58 Expeditious
59 Permits to
60 Small merganser
61 Yucky

DOWN
1 June honorees
2 Well-fixed group?
3 Engaged in
4 Kinsmen
5 Of some flight feathers
6 Deadlock
7 Wedding token
8 Garret
9 Firm intentions
10 Hindu incarnation
11 Scope
12 Type one letter on top of another
13 Have a feeling
15 Underground burial chamber
21 Jury panelist
23 Kind of system or power
25 Storage building
26 Golfers' long shots
27 Transitory
28 Whinny
32 Argue a case
34 Dear me!
36 Large, edible flatfishes
37 Notorious philanderer
39 Address for a lady
40 Palace in Vatican City
42 Assets
44 Coarse files
45 Winner's token
46 Overalls material
49 Thin coating of frost
51 Rara __
52 Temporary shelter
53 Uneasy
56 Cry like a kitten

Friday's Puzzle Solved

I	N	S	T	E	P	■	N	O	S	H	■	C	I	A
D	E	R	I	V	E	■	E	N	C	E	■	A	N	I
S	W	I	V	E	L	C	H	A	I	R	■	S	S	T
■	■	■	O	N	T	A	R	I	O	■	H	A	U	L
S	H	A	L	T	■	T	U	R	N	T	A	B	L	E
P	U	N	I	S	H	■	■	■	■	I	R	A	T	E
A	M	T	■	U	S	U	R	P	E	D	■	■	■	■
S	P	I	R	A	L	S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E
■	■	■	E	M	A	N	A	T	E	■	■	J	A	X
T	O	D	A	Y	■	■	■	■	T	A	M	A	L	E
W	H	I	R	L	P	O	O	L	■	G	O	R	E	S
I	D	O	S	■	A	D	M	I	R	E	S	■	■	■
T	E	N	■	S	P	I	N	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
C	A	N	■	M	A	U	I	■	A	C	E	O	U	T
H	R	E	■	A	L	M	S	■	M	Y	L	O	R	D

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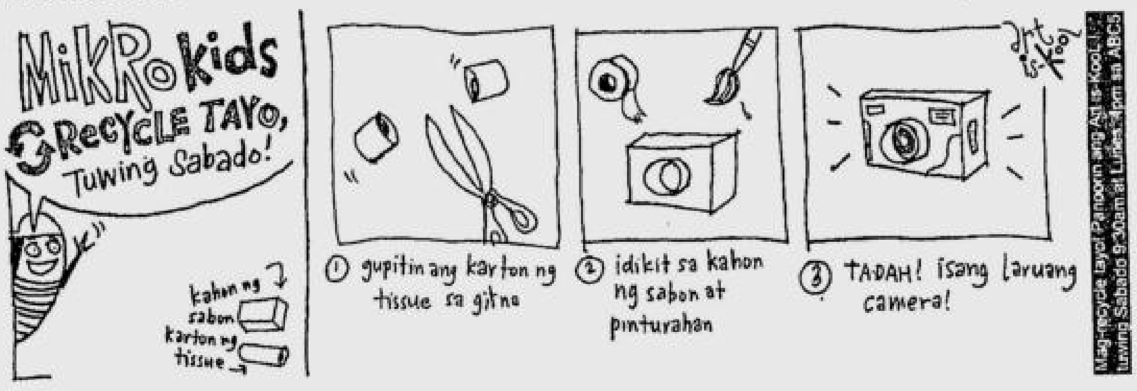
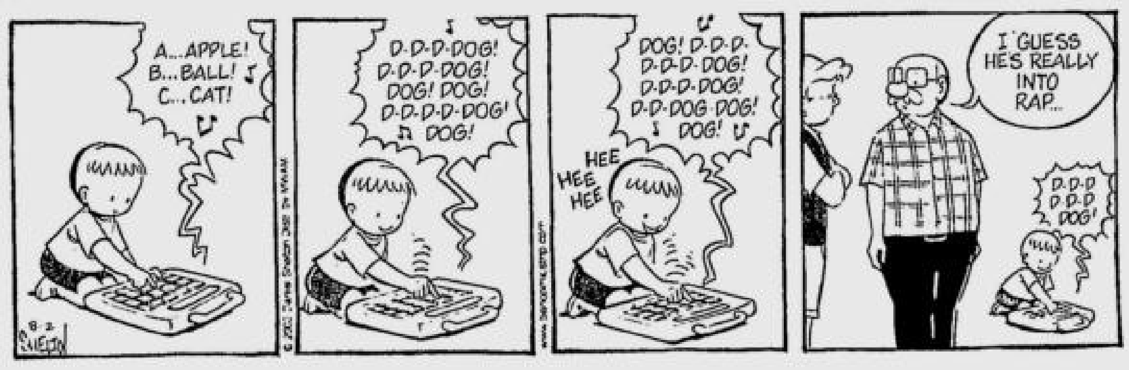
7/29/05

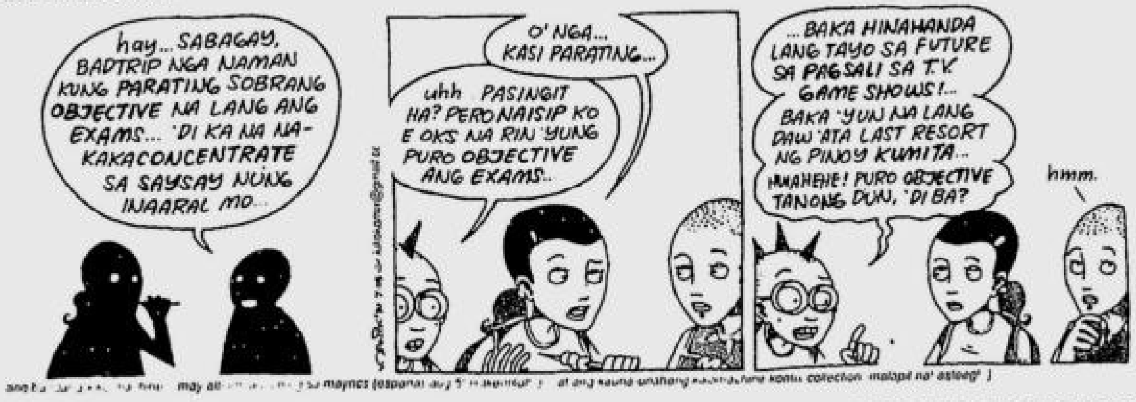
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
kahon ng sabon
karton ng tissue
① gupitin ang karton ng tissue sa gitna
② idikit sa kahon ng sabon at pinturahan
③ TADAH! isang laruang camera!
Art is Kool
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is Kool tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes 4pm sa ABC5

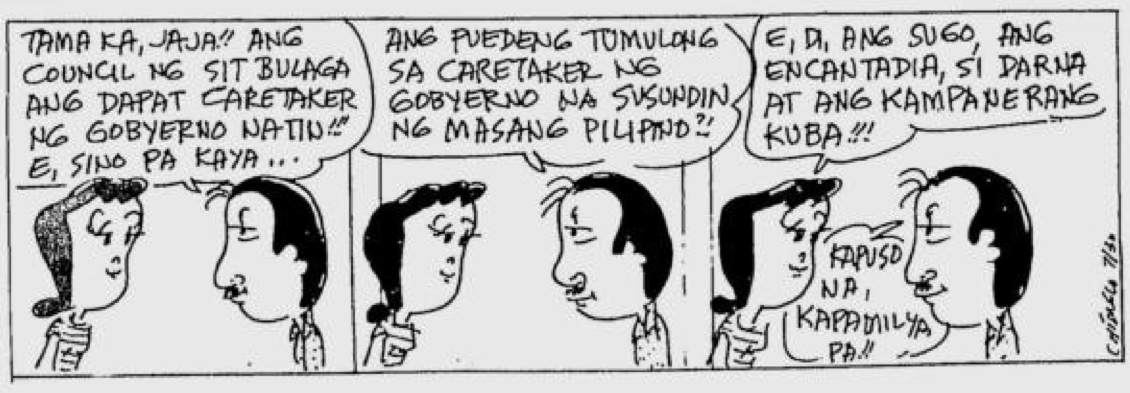
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


A...APPLE! B...BALL! C...CAT!
D-D-D-DOG! D-D-D-DOG! DOG! DOG! D-D-D-D-DOG! DOG!
HEE HEE HEE
DOG! D-D-D-D-D-DOG! D-D-D-DOG! D-D-DOG-DOG! DOG!
I GUESS HE'S REALLY INTO RAP...
D-D-D D-D-D DOG!

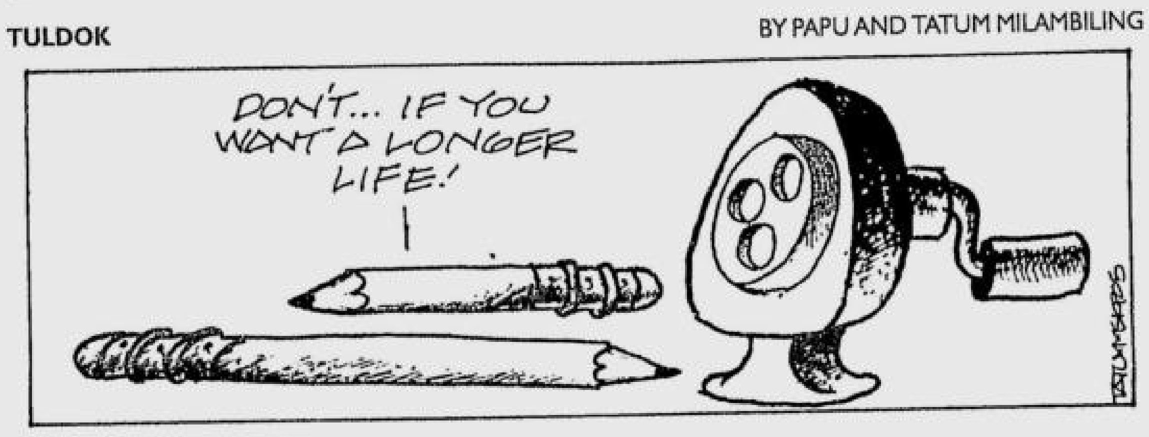
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... SABAGAY, BADTRIP NGA NAMAN KUNG PARATING SOBRANG OBJECTIVE NA LANG ANG EXAMS... 'DI KA NA NAKAKACONCENTRATE SA SAYSAY NUNG INAARAL MO...
O' NGA... KASI PARATING...
uhh PASINGIT HA? PERO NAISIP KO E OKS NA RIN 'YUNG PURO OBJECTIVE ANG EXAMS..
...BAKA HINAHANDA LANG TAYO SA FUTURE SA PAGSALI SA T.V. GAME SHOWS!... BAKA 'YUN NA LANG DAW 'ATA LAST RESORT NG PINOY KUMITA... HMAHEHE! PURO OBJECTIVE TANONG DUN, 'DI BA?
hmm.

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TAMA KA, JAJA!! ANG COUNCIL NG SIT BULAGA ANG DAPAT CARETAKER NG GOBYERNO NATIN!! E, SINO PA KAYA...
ANG PUEDENG TUMULONG SA CARETAKER NG GOBYERNO NA SUSUNDIN NG MASANG PILIPINO?!
E, DI, ANG SUGO, ANG ENCANTADIA, SI DARNA AT ANG KAMPANERANG KUBA!!!
KAPUSO NA, KAPAMILYA PA!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DON'T... IF YOU WANT A LONGER LIFE!

Pinoys' obsession with show biz highlighted in 'Pepot Artista'

By Noelani Torre

FOR the past few years, some people have been expressing the fear that the local movie industry is dying. If you look beyond statistics and at the movies themselves, however, you wouldn't be so quick to mourn and bury them—especially when you consider the independent filmmaking scene.

The recently concluded Cinemalaya filmfest featured movies by independent filmmakers, and it conveyed the message that the indie scene, at least, is alive and well.

Funny and relevant

The competition's best film winner, Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.'s "Pepot Artista," for example, is one of the finest *Piñoy* films we've seen in a long while. Part comedy, part musical, and part social commentary, this movie—about a boy who wants to become an *artista*—is poignant, funny and relevant.

Del Mundo might be a first-time director, but he knows what it takes to make a good movie. The scriptwriter of such acclaimed films as "Maynila...Sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," "'Merika," "Batch '81," "Mulanay" and "Bayaning 3rd World," he actually came up with the screenplay of "Pepot Artista" more than 30 years ago—the first screenplay he'd ever written, in fact, but nothing had come of it until last year, when it became one of the nine finalists in Cinemalaya's full-length feature category.

CASTILLO AND DEL MUNDO. Lead star and director of Cinemalaya's best film winner.

Set in the 1970s, with some scenes in the present, the film not only tells us of the boy Pepot and his quest for stardom. It takes an incisive look at the peculiar Filipino obsession with entertainment, and for becoming a celebrity.

In the role of Pepot is Elijah Castillo, a charming and gifted young actor whose engaging portrayal of an already sympathetic character will further rouse empathy, tug at heartstrings, and tickle your funny bone.

Supporting roles

In supporting roles are Noni Buencamino, who plays the narrator *and* the adult Pepot; Cris Villanueva and Rio Locsin as Pepot's parents; Tado Jimenez as Pepot's teacher; and Jeffrey Quizon, Bituin Escalante and Joy Soler-de Castro as performers at the *perya*.

The cast gives good, solid performances, and you'll also see a number of other performers in cameo roles, such as Lou Veloso, Tirso Cruz III, Joel Torre and Yoyoy Villame.

"Pepot Artista" is a movie that Filipinos will enjoy and identify with. Even members of the audience who weren't born during the '70s found themselves in stitches over the recurring Guy-and-Pip "Maria Leonora Theresa" theme.

And, since Del Mundo links Pepot's dream to that of the hundreds of star search hopefuls saturating show biz at the moment, we are left to ponder over our attraction to the world of entertainment—a fascination that seems to increase in direct proportion to the country's economic and political turmoil.

Rob Thomas is at the top of his game

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

OUR exclusive interview with Rob Thomas, the accommodating—but not smarmy—*de facto* leader of the post-grunge, pop-rock group, Matchbox 20, also reveals the introspective side of the popular Grammy-winner, who hasn't been spoiled by success.

What's important to Rob is not just steering records like "Push," "Smooth" or "Lonely No More" to the top of Billboard's charts—although the adulation can occasionally be "addicting." However, as Thomas explains: "I don't live like a celebrity. And it helps that I surround myself with the right people.

Creating energy

"Music is about creating energy and conceiving personal moments that mean something to people. My friends and the people I spend a lot of time with aren't celebrities. They're normal individuals who would find me silly—and would readily tell me so—if I acted like a big rock star. They keep me grounded."

Rob's self-effacing nature, though, has its disadvantages. He recalls one embarrassing moment: "After performing the last song in the repertoire of a Matchbox 20 concert, Kyle (Cook, the drummer) and I had to step outside the arena to use the rest room—there was none near the stage—before going back for the encore. Then, we realized we'd been locked outside the venue!

"There were 10,000 people inside waiting for us to get back onstage, and the other members of the band were getting mad at us because they didn't know where we were. When the backstage door finally opened, the security guy wouldn't even let us in, because he thought we were a couple of fans—and I had just been onstage! Fortunately, somebody who recognized me saw the ruckus and brought us through."

Clean-cut look

So, what's with the new haircut? Is it part of an image revamp to drum up his solo outing? He laughs, "The reason is more simple than people think. I've had the same haircut for 10 years. In New York, where I live, the weather can get oppressively hot. So, one summer, when it was particularly humid, I just couldn't take it anymore—I shaved off all my hair!" The new, clean-cut look has been enthusiastically welcomed by his younger fans.

Isn't he coming over to Manila to do a concert, or promote his solo album, "...something to be"? He shares, "We're trying hard to make that happen around February or March next year. I can't believe that I have yet to visit the Philippines!"

What advice can he give a talented musician who's serious about pursuing a career in music? He muses: "Before you even think about doing it as a career, you have to do it for love. Do it as if you were never ever going to be successful.

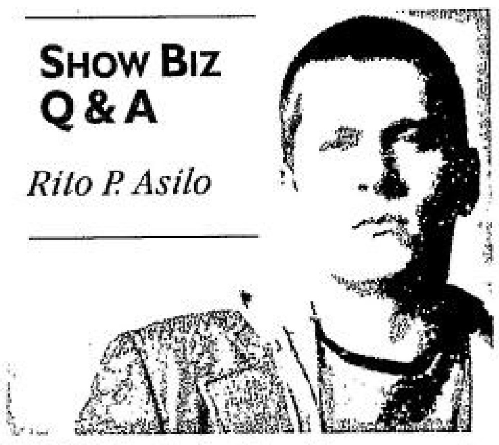
Success

"You have to get to a place where you're cool with that thought—you want to make music because you love it. That way, if you find success, then it's true success. If you do something just for the end result of finding fame and fortune, you *might* find success, but I don't think it will be as enduring—and I *don't* think it will feel as good!"

What does he do during his downtime? Does he have kids with wife Marisol Maldonado? The 33-year-old singer reveals: "We don't have kids yet. Maybe *that's* what I should work on in my next downtime—although I haven't had one in five years. If I don't get a vacation soon, my wife is going to divorce me!" (laughs)

Is his wife in show business, too? He shares, "She's been thrust into the business—only because she's become my micro-manager."

If she's with him on the tour, then maybe they can work on that baby? Rob bursts into laughter: "Yes, exactly!"


THOMAS. Locked out from his own concert.

Hollywood misses . . .

From page A2-1

For example, it was "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" that the audience wanted to see, rather than Chow Yun Fat. The audience was interested in "Hero" and "The House of Flying Daggers," because they were entertained by the feats accomplished by their surreal heroes.

Jet Li may have greater drawing power because of a name that is easy to remember, as well as for his fine performance as Mel Gibson's antagonist in a "Lethal Weapon" sequel. So, Jackie Chan relies more on his Hong Kong productions rather than on Hollywood's blockbusters to maintain his respectable screen standing.

Attention

My attention was won when I saw early publicity for the World War II bio-flick, "The Great Raid," which is supposed to have taken place in Nueva Ecija.

Cesar Montano leads the cast, at least as far as local publicity goes. I asked Cesar's astute manager, Norma Japitana, if Cesar is similarly billed abroad, alongside Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Joseph Fiennes and Connie Nielsen?

"No," answered Norma. In fact, Cesar is *not* billed with the four Hollywood stars, but is relegated to the lower series of "other actors."

Overseas workers

I think this is short-minded of the film's Hollywood producers, because Cesar represents 80 million movie-loving Filipinos. A number of them will certainly go to see "The Great Raid" mainly because of Cesar Montano, rather than Bratt and company. Besides, there are three million Filipino overseas workers who would want to see the film because of Cesar's presence in it.

Bratt, Franco and Fiennes have fine credentials, but I doubt if they are crowd-drawers.

In fact, given the number of *Pinoys* around the world, the movie's producer has sadly misjudged Cesar's international clout.

Is Montano good for at least one million viewers? I think so. Multiply that number by the cost of a movie ticket, and the Montano factor translates into a lot of money!

It's time Hollywood stops being parochial about its assessment of the Third World market and gives it proper credit. Wake up, Hollywood!

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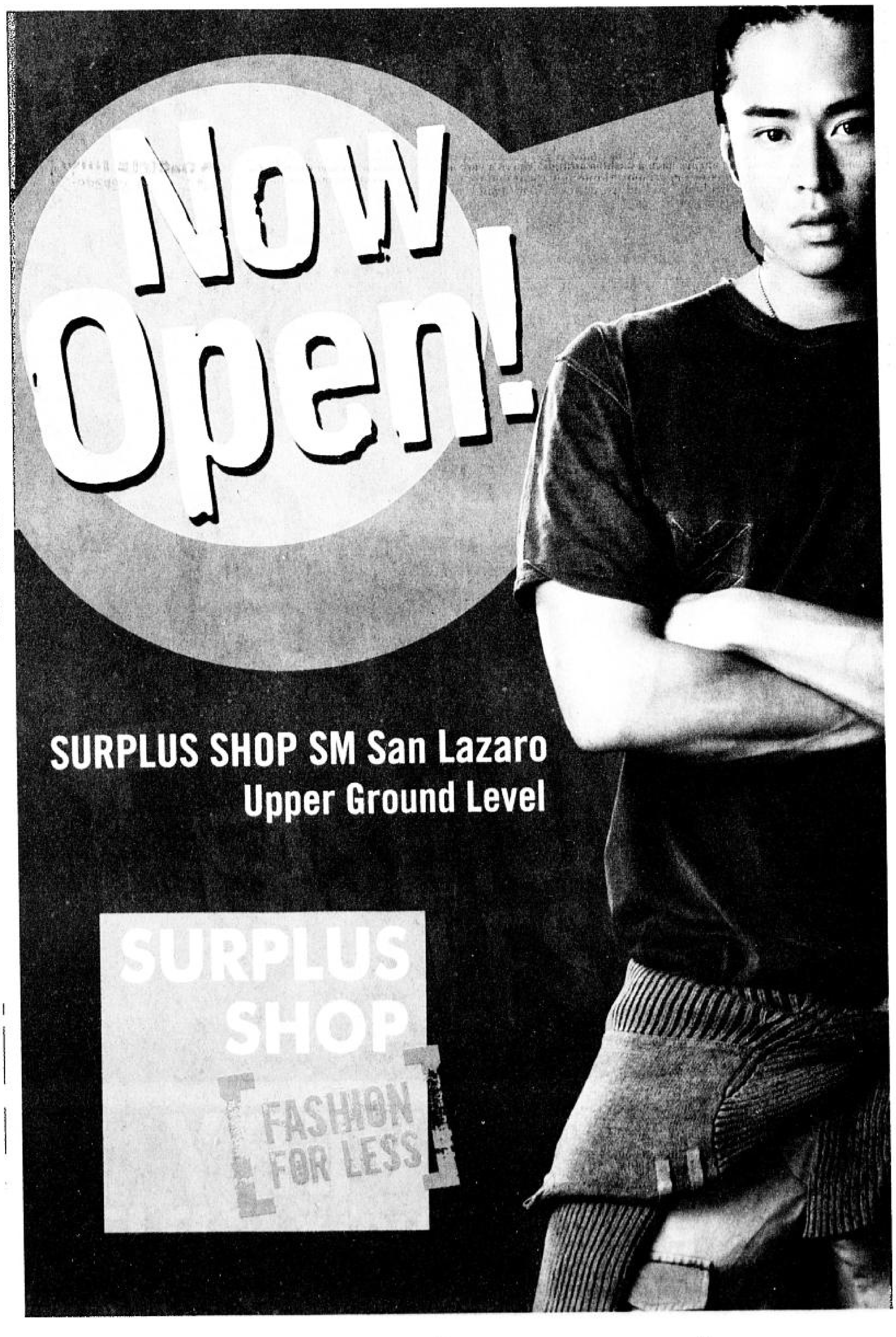

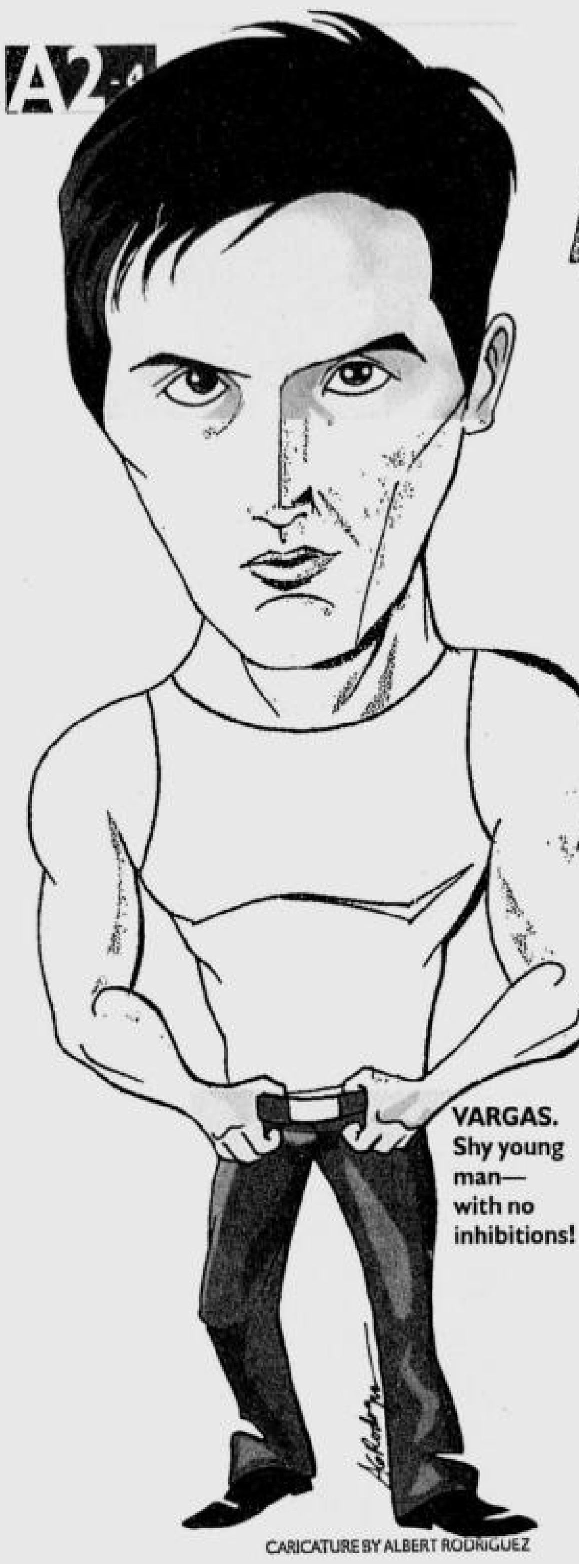

VARGAS. Shy young man—with no inhibitions!

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Alfred Vargas is a bundle of contradictions

By Nestor U. Torre

ALFRED Vargas is an Ateneo graduate, a sexy star, a good actor, a shy young man with no inhibitions, a humble person who has set lofty goals for himself—talk about a bundle of contradictions! But, Alfred shrugs off the conundrums in his life and career with a grin, and just keeps on rocking.

Fact is, he doesn't see any contradictions in the way that his career has been coming along these past five years. Yes, he finished college at the Ateneo, but he points out that he was active in campus theater—a sign that he wouldn't be averse to a performing career.

Fledgling career

True, the first time that he tried his luck in the biz, as part of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 10, his fledgling career went nowhere—fast!

That's why, when Seiko Films producer Robbie Tan offered him a key role in the sexy movie, "Bridal Shower," Alfred steeled himself, banished all of his fear and trepidation, and said yes.

Even after he was told that some nudity would be involved, and he would be playing a macho dancer, Alfred stayed the course. He knew that, with Jeffrey Jeturian helming the project, he was in good, non-exploitative hands.

To get over his nervousness at daring and baring, Alfred "casually" walked around the Seiko offices in his underwear. He took macho dancing lessons under some experts at the *giling-giling* "choreography" that has become a staple of local gay bars.

But, with Jeturian's help, he also dug under his character's skin, and came up with a winning, empathetic performance that won for him the Golden Screen award for best breakthrough performance by a new actor.

More progressive

That achievement paved the way for more progressive things to happen to Alfred's career—good offers that other sexy actors never get, like guest and regular roles on TV, endorsements and roadshow appearances.

After all, Alfred is being mentored by veteran talent manager Lolit Solis, whose strong industry connections have decidedly brightened Alfred's career prospects.

Currently, Alfred is a regular on two hit GMA-7 shows, "Daisy Siete" and "Encantadia." He has another movie, "Bikini Open" under his belt, and he's rehearsing for a sophisticated stage comedy produced by Robbie Tan, with the gorgeous Francine Prieto and Christian Vasquez co-starring.

Image model

When it rains, it pours: Alfred is the new image model for Walker Briefs and Shirts. He's appearing in the new fantasy series, "Mahiwagang Baul." And, along with Francine and Christian, he's taking an advanced acting workshop that should further enhance his already striking performances, and assure that he'll be good and ready for new performing offers that will be coming his way, not only here at home but also abroad.

With his height, dusky looks, buff physique, thespic talent and healthy ambition, Alfred Vargas has what it takes to make his distinctive mark in entertainment in the months and years to come. There's nothing contradictory about *that*!

ALONSO. Different challenge for the celebrated actor.

Lyceum Theater Company gets new artistic director

LYCEUM of the Philippines' president Roberto P. Laurel recently announced the appointment of Chinggoy Alonso as the new artistic director of the Lyceum Theater Company.

Alonso will be responsible for overseeing activities of Tanghalang Batingaw, the Lyceum Dance Troupe and the Lyceum Chorale, which comprise the school's theater company.

Aside from the roles he has played in many popular stage plays, the veteran actor also dabbles as director, producer, musical arranger, composer and scriptwriter. In addition, he is an author of poetry books, narrator, art restorer, commercial model and a sought-after emcee!

A former artistic director of the Metropolitan Theater, Alonso is a three-time best actor winner at the Aliw Awards.

With Alonso on board, the Lyceum Theater Company is abuzz with activities. Call (632) 527-8251, or email www.lyceumphil.edu.ph.

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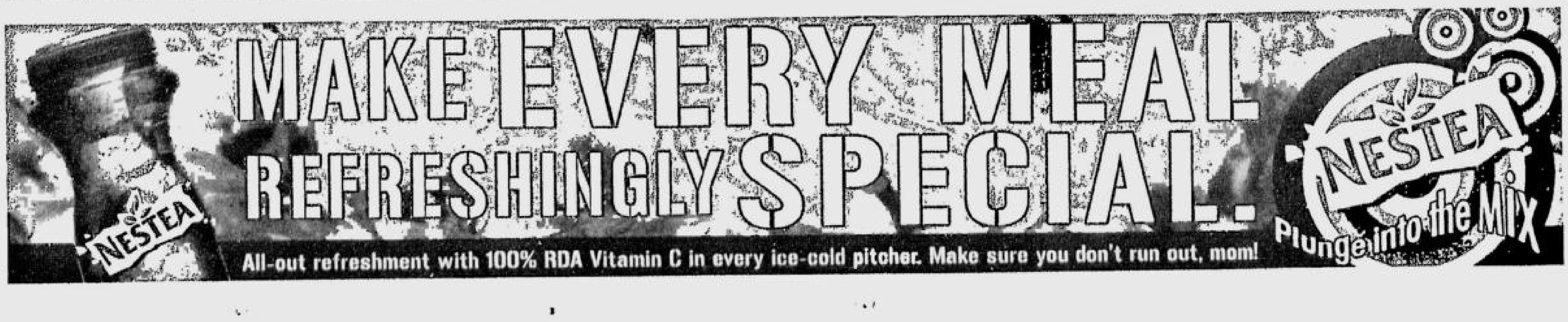
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BUENCAMINO AND WILSON. Notable thespic turns in "Pepot Artista," "ICU Bed #7" and "Big Time."

Other fine performances in Cinemalaya films

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST July 16, we singled out the performances of Eddie Garcia and Meryll Soriano (in "ICU Bed #7" and "Room Boy," respectively) as two of the best portrayals in the Cinemalaya film entries at the CCP. Coincidentally, Garcia and Meryll ended up winning the filmfest's acting awards the following night—a tribute, perhaps, to our prescience?

In any case, they were by no means the only creditable performers in the festival. We also appreciated the textured portrayal that Pen Medina turned in in "Baryoke."

Vehicle

Medina is a busy TV-film actor, but he is generally limited to cameo performances in mainstream entertainment. In his Cinemalaya vehicle, he finally gets a full-length role, and is able to show what he can *really* do.

In "Big Time," the performances of Jamie Wilson and Winston Elizalde are both diverting and compelling. Winston plays a petty hood whose life turns turtle when Wilson, the son of a ruthless crime lord, involves him in a million-peso "kidnap-me" scheme.

In the same film, Joanne Miller also makes a smashing big-screen debut as Wilson's ditzy starlet-girlfriend.

"Pepot Artista" boasts of many fine performances, including those by young Elijah Castillo in the title role, Joy Soler-de Castro as a florid but sympathetic fortuneteller, and Epy Quizon as a Tirso Cruz III wannabe.

Incidentally, Quizon has a bigger role in "Lasponggols," but his performance there is too highstrung and for-effect, so he does better in his shorter but more sensitive and affecting portrayal in "Pepot Artista."

Title role

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" casts a fine young actor, Nathan Lopez, in its challenging title role, that of a gay adolescent who does all of the household chores for his family of macho crooks—until he falls in love with an honest cop who teaches him to have a better, more enlightened self-image.

Lopez was so good in his difficult role that he was given a special acting citation at Cinemalaya's awards ceremonies.

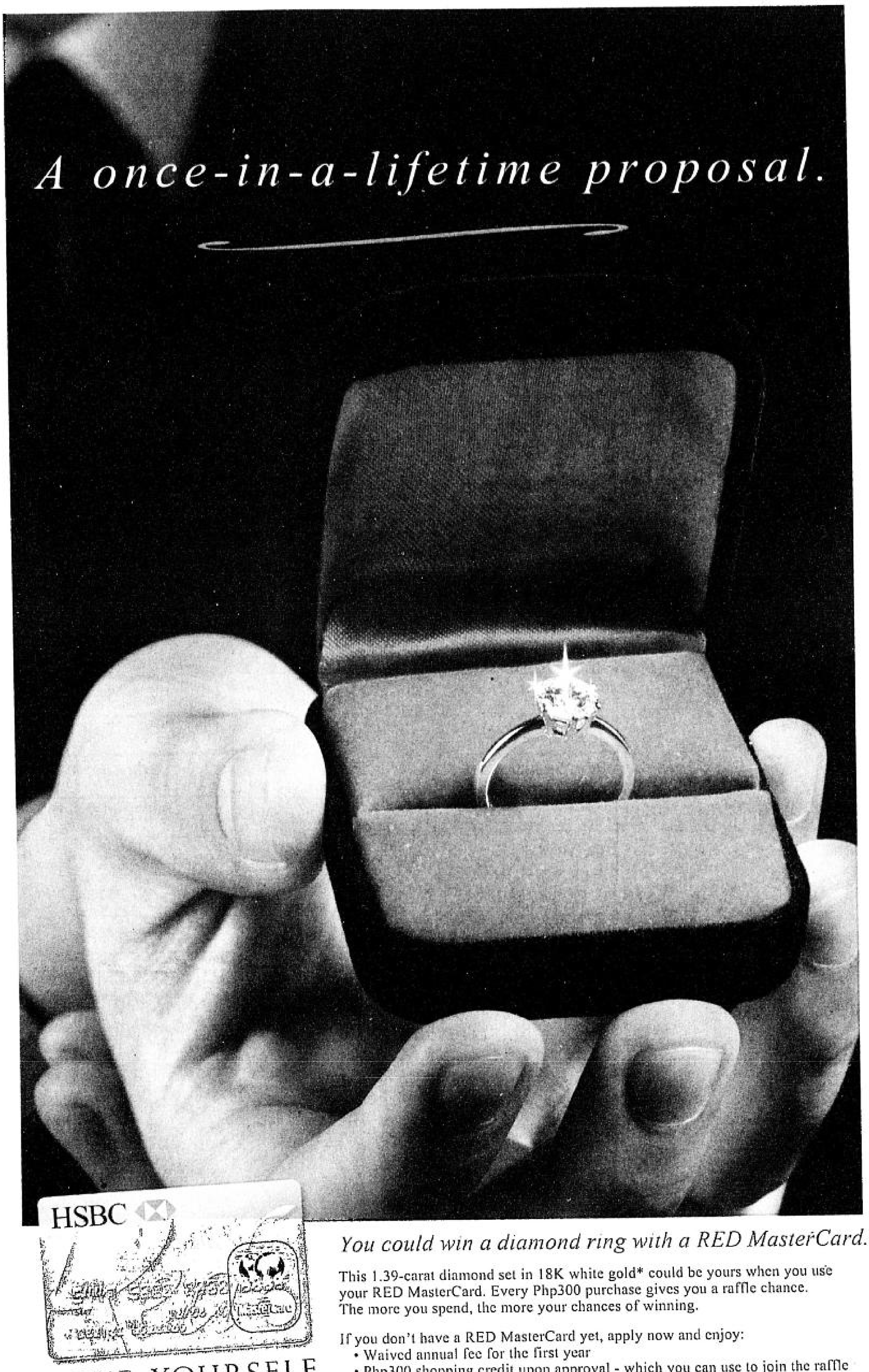
This augurs well for the young actor's fledgling career, and we hope to see more of him on the big and small screens.

JR Valentin's portrayal of the cop also deserves to be singled out. We trust that his good showing in "Maximo Oliveros" will also help rev up Valentin's TV-film career.

Special mention

Finally, we must make special mention of Noni Buencamino, who figures in two Cinemalaya entries—as the narrator in "Pepot Artista," and as Eddie Garcia's son-in-law in "ICU Bed #7." In both movies, Buencamino comes up with striking and felt performances that make us yearn to see him in full-length roles.

OTHER/ A3-4



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3 MACHINIST 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00	8 IF ONLY 12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
4 FANTASTIC FOUR 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 D' ANOTHERS 12:00 2:05 4:10 6:25 9:40
5 STEALTH 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	10 NEW POLICE STORY 12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

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1 STEALTH	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
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4 IF ONLY 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 THE MACHINIST 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

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2 SHANGHAI LILY 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	6 WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:30
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	7 STEALTH 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:30
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Gonzaga home for special shows

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

OTONIEL Gonzaga was born in Iloilo City, and studied music at the Curtis Institute. He won first prize at the Marian Anderson Industrial Voice Competition, and later bagged a plum role in a production of "La Boheme." In "Pagliacci," he was part of the chorus, while the lead role was played by Placido Domingo.

Series

Gonzaga is home for a series of special concerts at Philamlife Theater and Ayala Museum on Aug. 5. The beneficiary of the Ayala Museum concert is the Panaghoy ng mga Bata Foundation. Call 750-0365 or 892-6740.

In a Munich production of "Rigoletto," Domingo was so impressed by Gonzaga's performance that he arranged for his audition with legendary conductor Herbert Von Karajan.

"It is a special honor to be asked by Placido Domingo to be a part of the opera house he leads," says Gonzaga. "I consider myself lucky for the opportunity. My brief conversation with him took place during an intermission of the opera, 'The Maid of Orleans,' where I covered the role of the King.

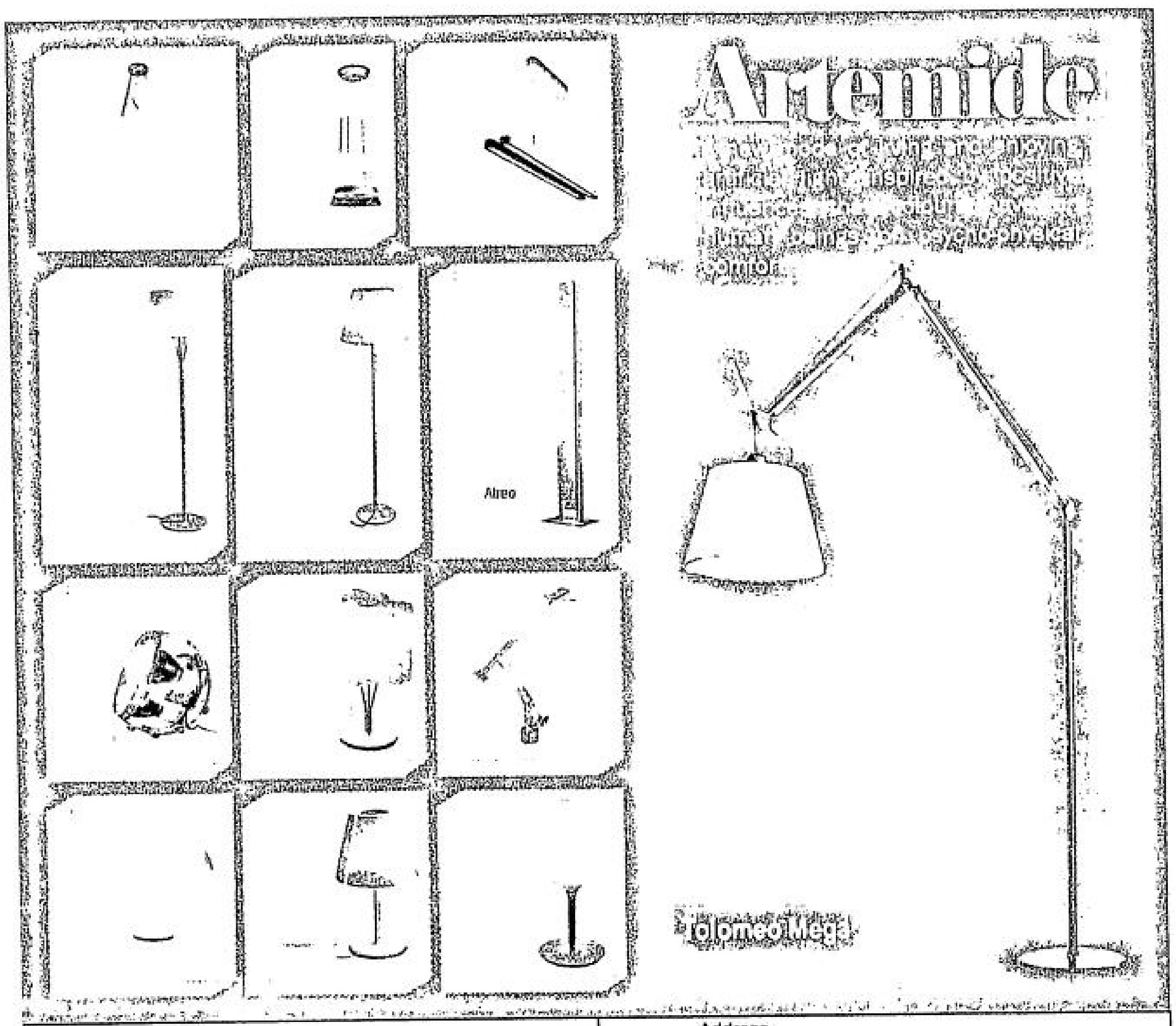
Role

"He asked me if there was a role that I really wanted to sing, and I answered: Arrigo in Verdi's 'Vespri Siciliani.' A few days later, I was asked to cover for him in the triple bill for the National Opera!"

Among the characters he has portrayed, he considers Otello as a specially challenging tenor role. "For a performer to do justice to that part, you must be ready vocally and psychologically," he observes.

Email author at mandynavasero@photopro.com.ph.

GONZAGA (right) with wife Christina and son Rolando.



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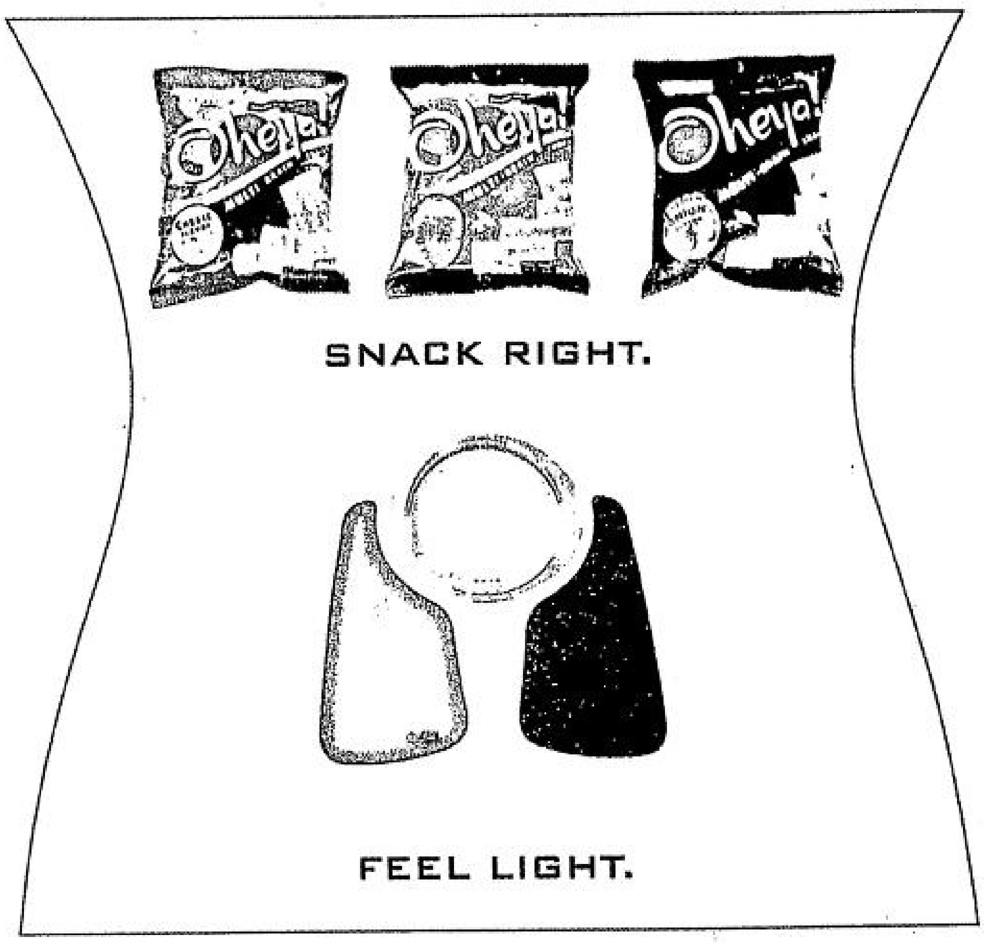

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WILLY WONKA'S yummy chocolate factory revisited

GENE Wilder (center) as Wonka, with the Oompa-Loompas, in the classic 1971 musical.

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

MANY viewers are looking forward to watching Tim Burton's new adaptation of Roald Dahl's book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Before they do so, however, they should view the original 1971 production, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," on tape or disc.

My love for that movie started when my siblings and I were "required" to see it—along with the likes of "The Sound of Music," "The Wizard of Oz," "Annie," "Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang" and "Mary Poppins."

Collection

From VHS to VCD, musicals were quite a part of my family's collection—we viewed them from time to time, especially on weekends when we wanted to sing-along with their timeless songs.

Musicals have the power to lift sagging spirits. In anticipation of the new version, I recently viewed "Willy Wonka" for the nth time.

The story: A mysterious man who owns a chocolate factory where "nobody ever comes in, nobody ever comes out"—gives five lucky kids the opportunity to tour the factory, and the chance to win a lifetime's supply of chocolates!

The lead child character, Charlie Bucket (Peter Ostrum), comes from a poor family. He lives with his mom and two sets of grandparents.

Public clamor

There is a public clamor when news spread that the factory is being opened to five lucky finders of golden tickets hidden in Wonka chocolate bars. Charlie gets excited, of course, but he knows his chances are slim. But, as fate would have it, Charlie makes it to the lucky five! The four other odious children disappear one by one as they get punished by Wonka for violating the factory's rules—leaving only the good-hearted Charlie.

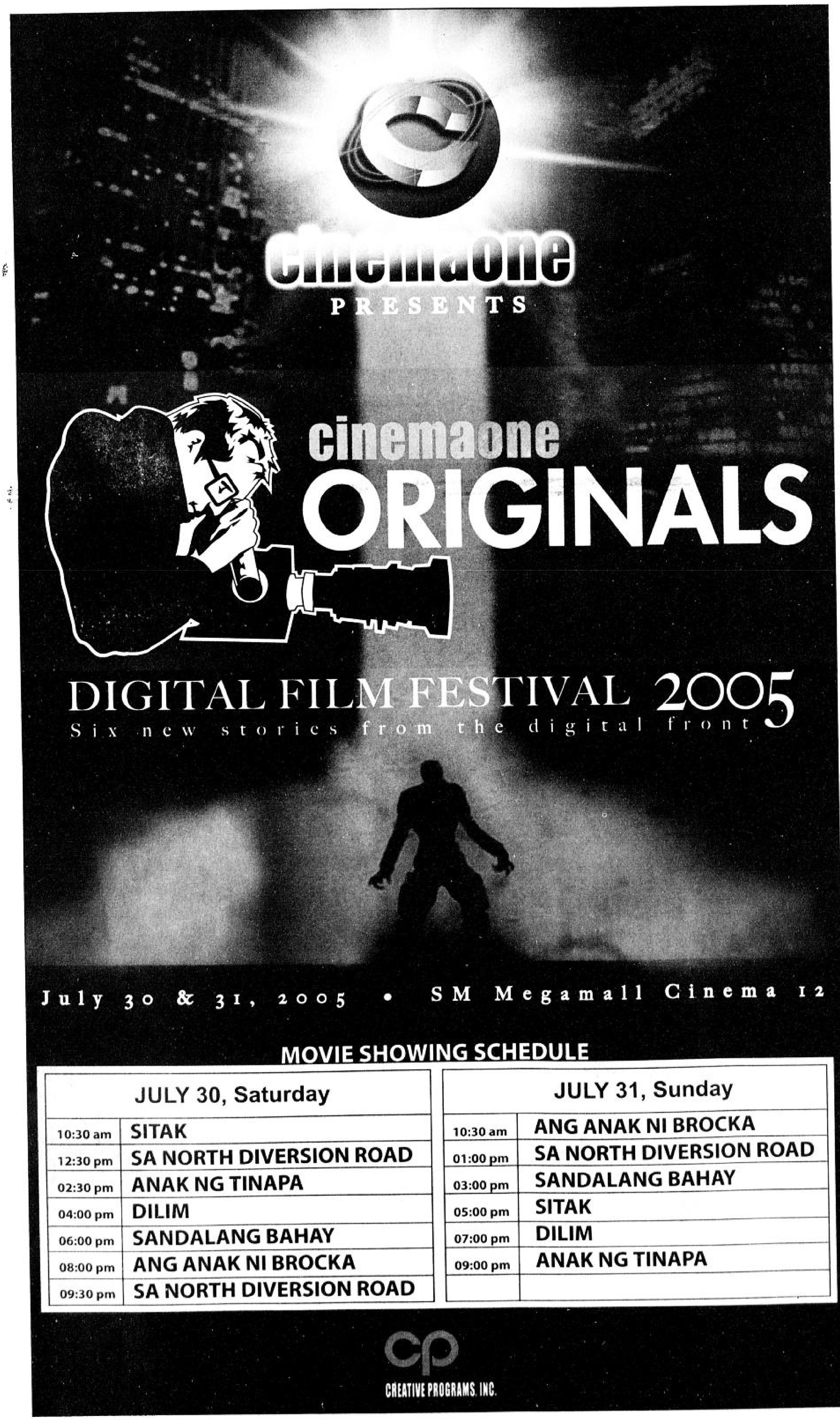
The movie has catchy song numbers, simple lyrics and likable melodies. "Candyman" for instance, is a reference to *the* candyman himself, Willy Wonka: "Who can take a sunrise, sprinkle it with dew/cover it with chocolate and a miracle or two?/ The candyman/the candyman can."

The fun and excitement escalate as the lucky ticket holders start their tour of the magical factory, while Willy sings "Pure Imagination," the most popular song in the movie: "Come with me/And you'll be/In a world of pure imagination/ Take a look and you'll see/ Into your imagination…There is no life I know/ To compare with pure imagination/ Living there, you'll be free/ If you truly wish to be."

Midgets

Other delights include the Oompa Loompas (the midgets who help Wonka in the factory) and their production number as each kid gets eliminated. The Oompa Loompas sing a puzzle that best describes a kid's vicious character, and end with a phrase that warns the kids how they could have been happy had they not been nasty, etc.!

There are more lovely songs and magical tricks in the movie, but I don't want to spoil the fun for you. But one thing's for sure, with high technology, the new version definitely promises to be a visual delight. Still, to put the new version in the right context, we urge you to get a copy of the first film.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July 30 & 31, 2005 • SM Megamall Cinema 12
MOVIE SHOWING SCHEDULE

JULY 30, Saturday		JULY 31, Sunday	
10:30 am	SITAK	10:30 am	ANG ANAK NI BROCKA
12:30 pm	SA NORTH DIVERSION ROAD	01:00 pm	SA NORTH DIVERSION ROAD
02:30 pm	ANAK NG TINAPA	03:00 pm	SANDALANG BAHAY
04:00 pm	DILIM	05:00 pm	SITAK
06:00 pm	SANDALANG BAHAY	07:00 pm	DILIM
08:00 pm	ANG ANAK NI BROCKA	09:00 pm	ANAK NG TINAPA
09:30 pm	SA NORTH DIVERSION ROAD		

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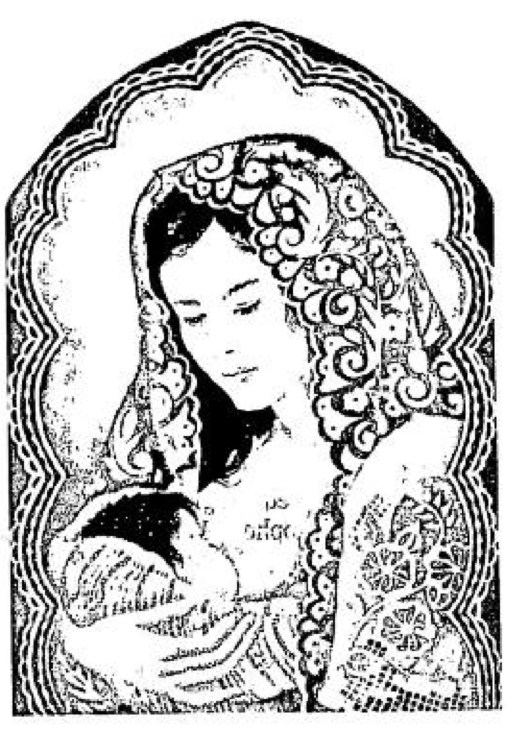
CHELOY Dans' "Pagmamahal ni Inay."

Afternoon with the Masters

FROM Aug. 1 to 7, the UP-PGH joins the DOH and WHO in commemorating World Breastfeeding Week. A painting session, "The Breastfeeding Madonna and Child: An Afternoon with the Masters," will jumpstart the celebrations.

This event gathers achievers in the local art world: National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Anita Magsaysay Ho, Araceli Limcaco-Dans, Juvenal Sanso, Celia Diaz-Laurel, Teresita Sarmiento-Duldulao, Phyllis Zaballero, Aladin Antiqueño, Janice Luison Young, Angelo Baldemor, Lell Baldemor, Tito Sanchez, Socorro Paterno, Gig de Pio and Clarissa Perez.

The session will be held on Aug. 1, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the second-floor conference room of the Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal at PGH.

Awareness

Breasfeeding moms and their babies will be modeling during the session. To promote awareness and appreciation of breastfeeding, the art pieces created will be displayed at the PGH Department of Pediatrics.

To generate funds for underprivileged mother and their infants, the art pieces will be sold in an auction that will be conducted on Aug. 4. Art enthusiasts, collectors and breasfeeding advocates are urged to witness the painting session, and to register as bidders in the auction. Other works of art by invited artists will be displayed in the anteroom of the painting area and will be available for direct purchase.

Call Dr. Bel Amante at 521-8450 loc. 2107, or 0915 780-3589.

Other fine. . .

From page A3-1

We hope that will happen in the next Cinemalaya festival.

Buencamino should be given challenging, full-length roles that will enable his thespic gift to really shine through—as it deserves to! We've seen him light up the stage with his incandescent performances, and want our TV-film audiences to also savor that wonderful experience.

SATURDAY Special

WILSON AND VAUGHN. Play emotional vultures who prey on vulnerable women at weddings.

NOW SHOWING

Wilson, Vaughn ham it up in zany comedy

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Wedding Crashers"
D: David Dobkin
S: Owen Wilson, Vince Vaughn

DAVID Dobkin's latest comic no-brainer has a flimsy storyline—about a couple of attractive cads, John and Jeremy (Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, respectively), who crash wedding parties to take advantage of women guests who are momentarily made gullible by the romantic atmosphere of these highly sentimental events.

Unfortunately, the naughty duo ends up with the pedigreed daughters of Treasury Secretary Cleary (Christopher Walken). The beautiful Claire (Rachel McAdams) and the *very* young and hilariously bratty Gloria (Isla Fisher). Call them emotional vultures, like the character Will Ferrell plays in his scene-stealing cameo as a scheming lothario who sets his sights on grieving women—at funerals!

Comedy isn't easy to do. In fact, if you're not blessed with the natural aptitude to generate laughter, you can only hope to either wing it on speed, or on the brilliance of the material. In Dobkin's politically-incorrect movie, however, the director weaves a patchy montage of alternately funny and trite scenes that work on the zany, winsome antics of Wilson and the 6'5" tall Vaughn,

WILSON/ A4-2

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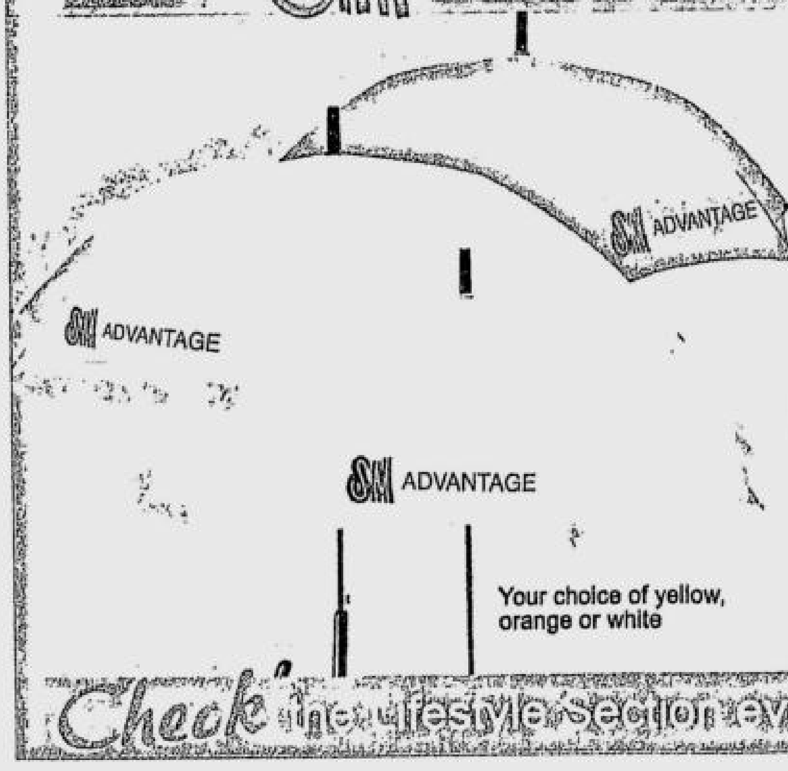

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Check the Lifestyle section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights.

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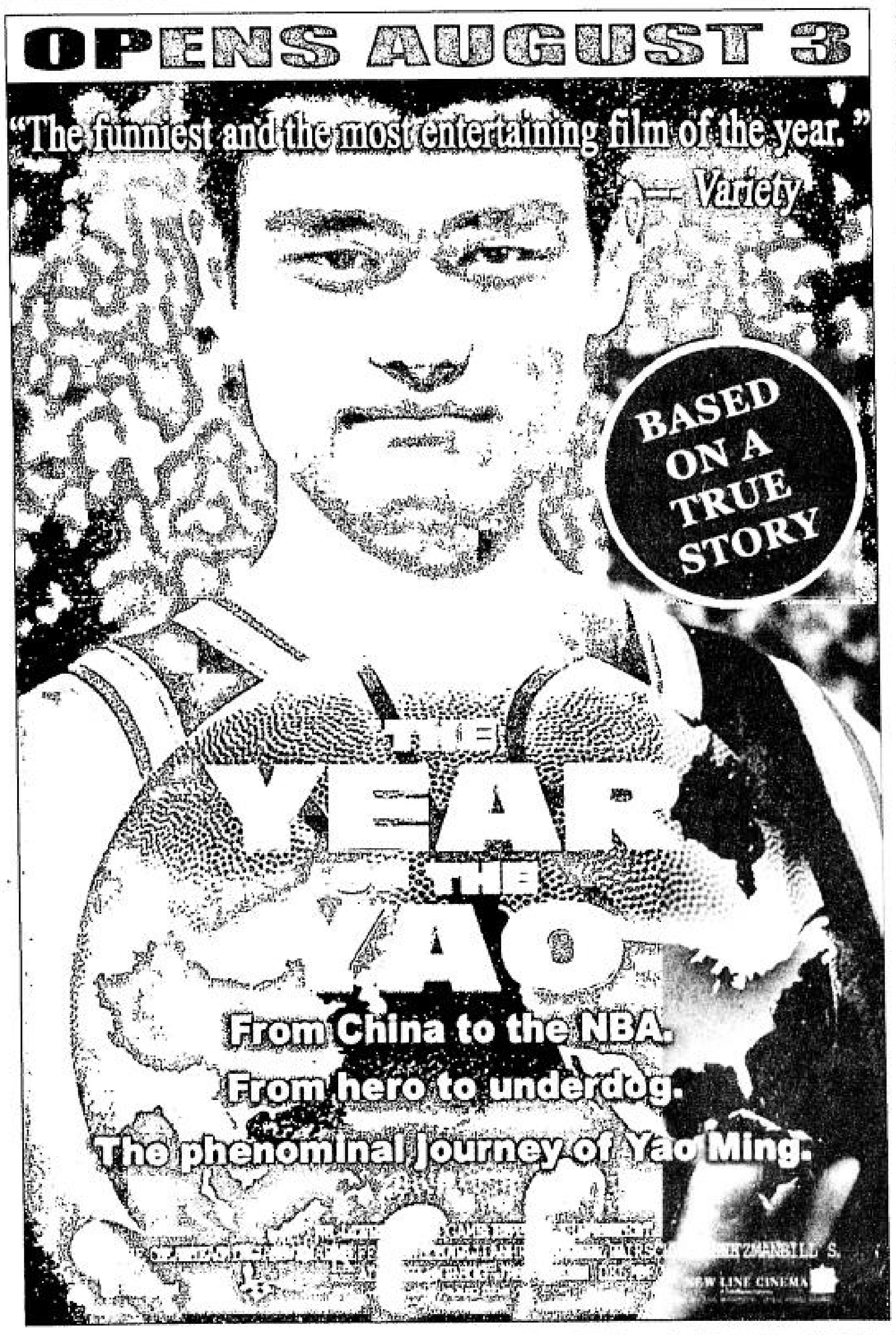
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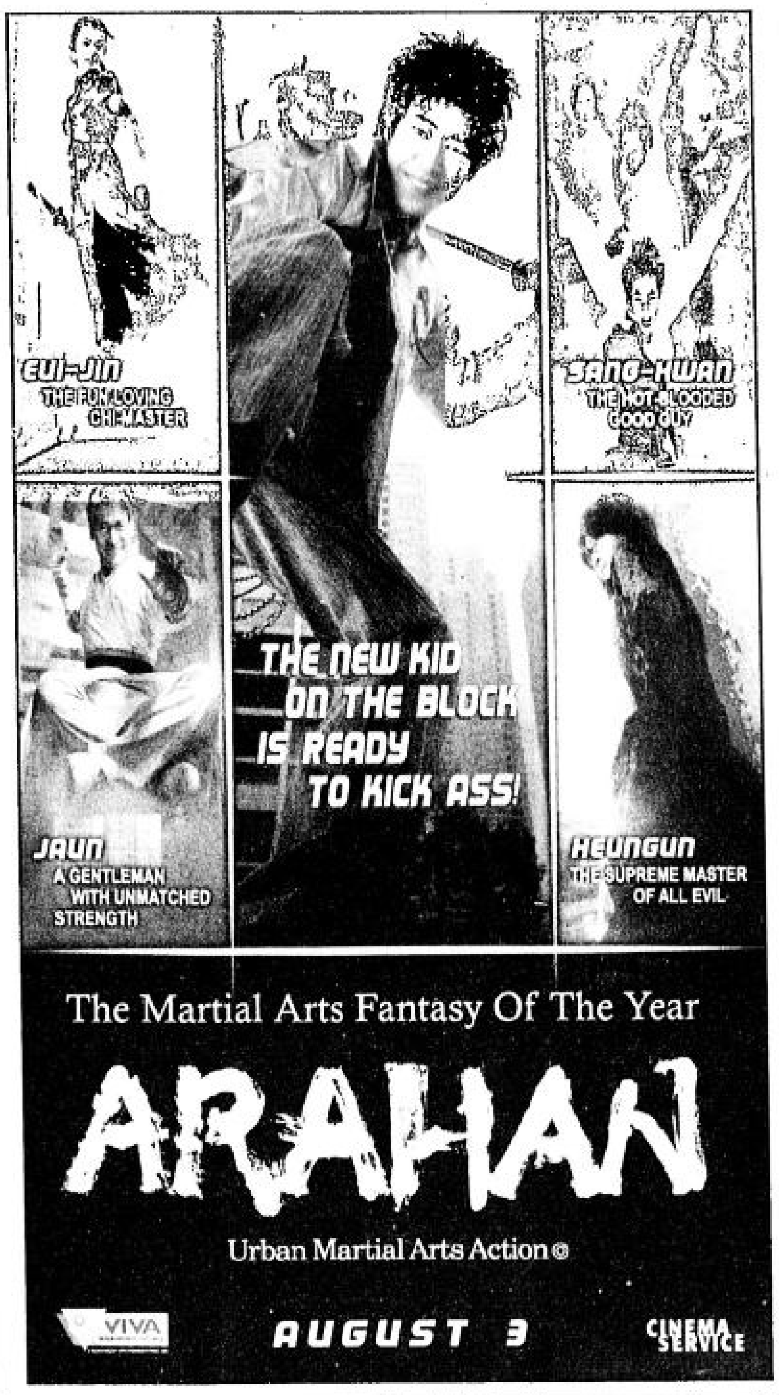
NEW LINE CINEMA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ARAHAN
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AUGUST 3
CINEMA SERVICE

MTRCB RATING G General Audience
ALL AGES ADMITTED
Charlie AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
Veruca
is a very bad nut
THE FACTORY OPENS AUG. 3

Wilson, Vaughn ham it up in zany comedy

From page A4-1

who's always been reliable in adult-themed comedies ("Swingers," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith").

Both actors inhabit their less-than-ideal characters with infectious zeal and insouciant spirit. For one, Jeremy's heady scene with his teenybopper girlfriend at the dinner table will either offend your sensibilities, or leave you in stitches.

If you're gearing up for mindless, sometimes rudimentary fun, these party crashers—and poopers—may just be the perfect companions for a goofy night out at the movies.

"The Machinist"

D: Brad Anderson
S: Christian Bale, Jennifer Jason Leigh

Check out Brad Anderson's cerebral take on the psychological repercussions of guilt, as he examines the story of Trevor Reznik (the brilliant Christian Bale), a lonely machine operator who has not slept for a year.

For the role, the 6'2" Bale lost more than 60 lbs and pushed the boundaries of artistic commitment by looking emaciated and, well, "cadaverous," at only 121 lbs!

"D' Anothers"

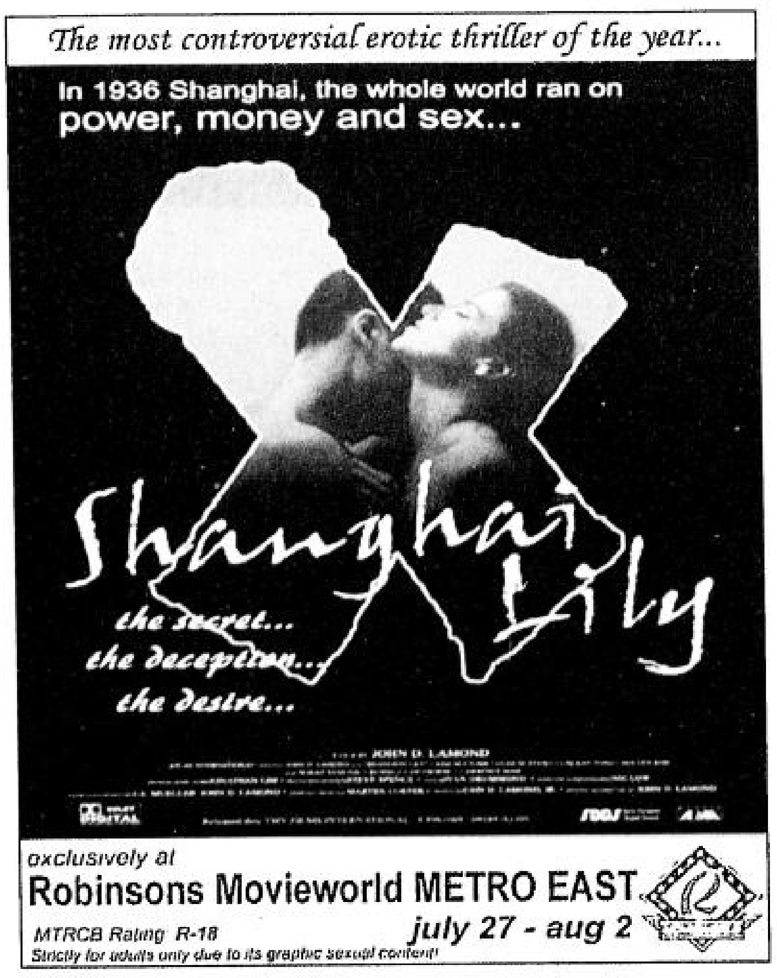
D: Joyce Bernal
S: Vhong Navarro

Joyce Bernal returns with a less-than-satisfying fusion of comedy and horror, about Hesus, (Vhong Navarro) a bank employee who lives with an opportunistic but dim-witted and obese aunt (Arlene Muhlach, who fits the hefty role to a T) and her two not-so-smart sons.

They make life a living hell for the beleaguered protagonist, who inherits a century-old mansion that is inhabited by listless but harmless ghosts

WILSON/ A4-4

NAVARRO. His new starrer is a fusion of comedy and horror.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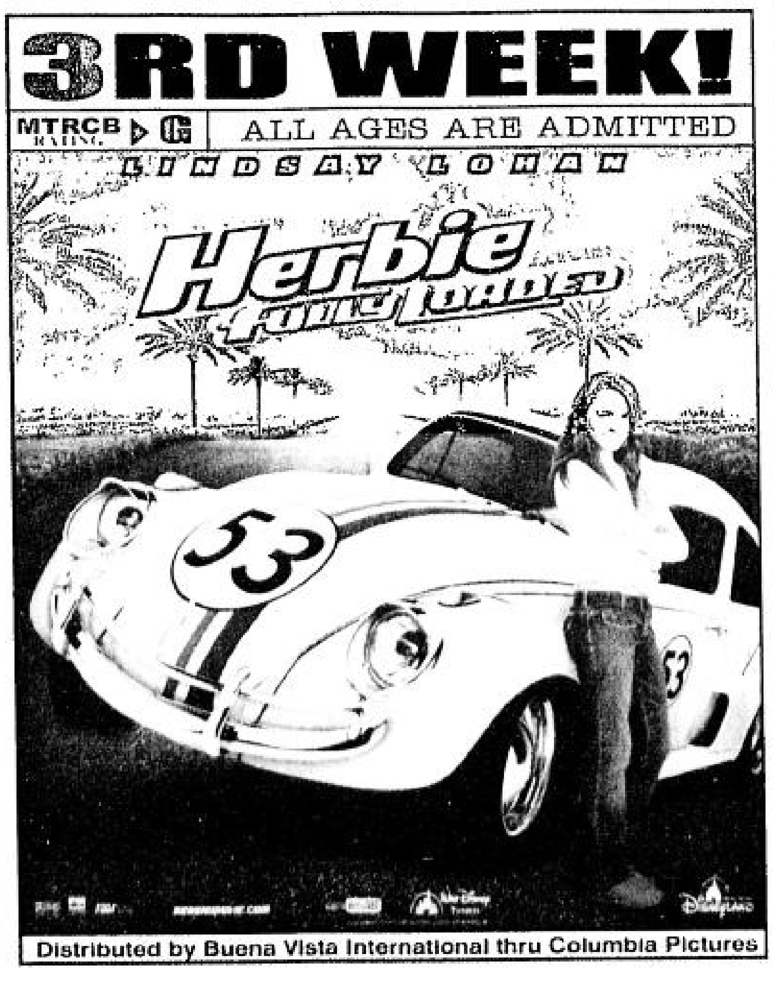
3RD WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
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53
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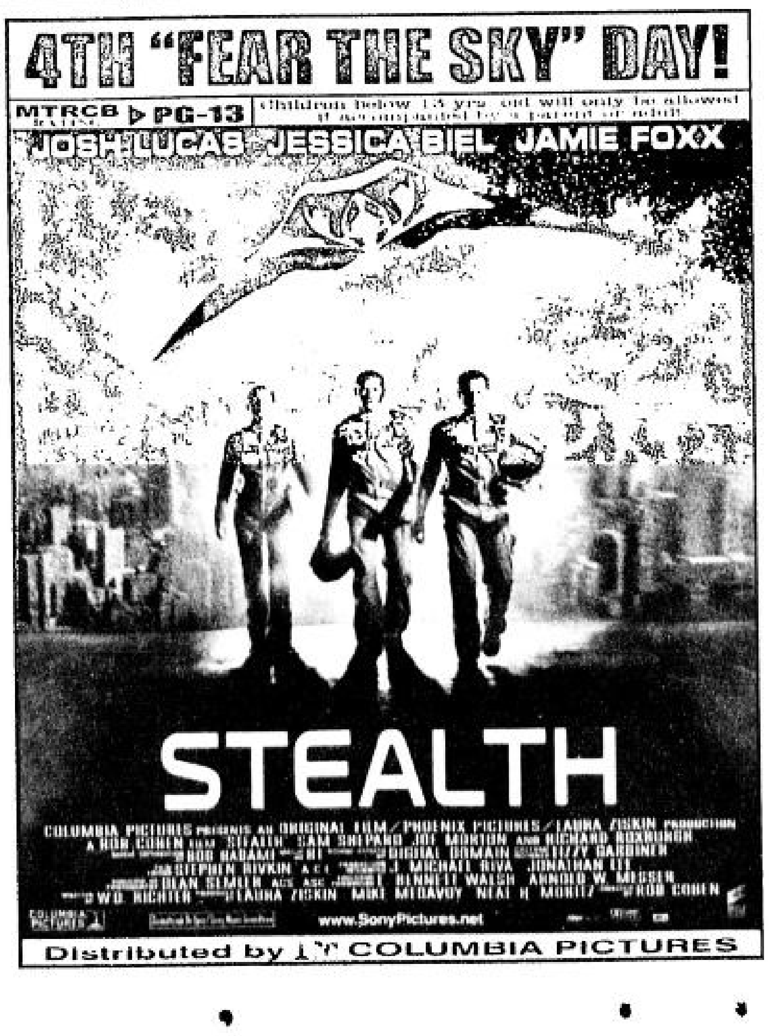
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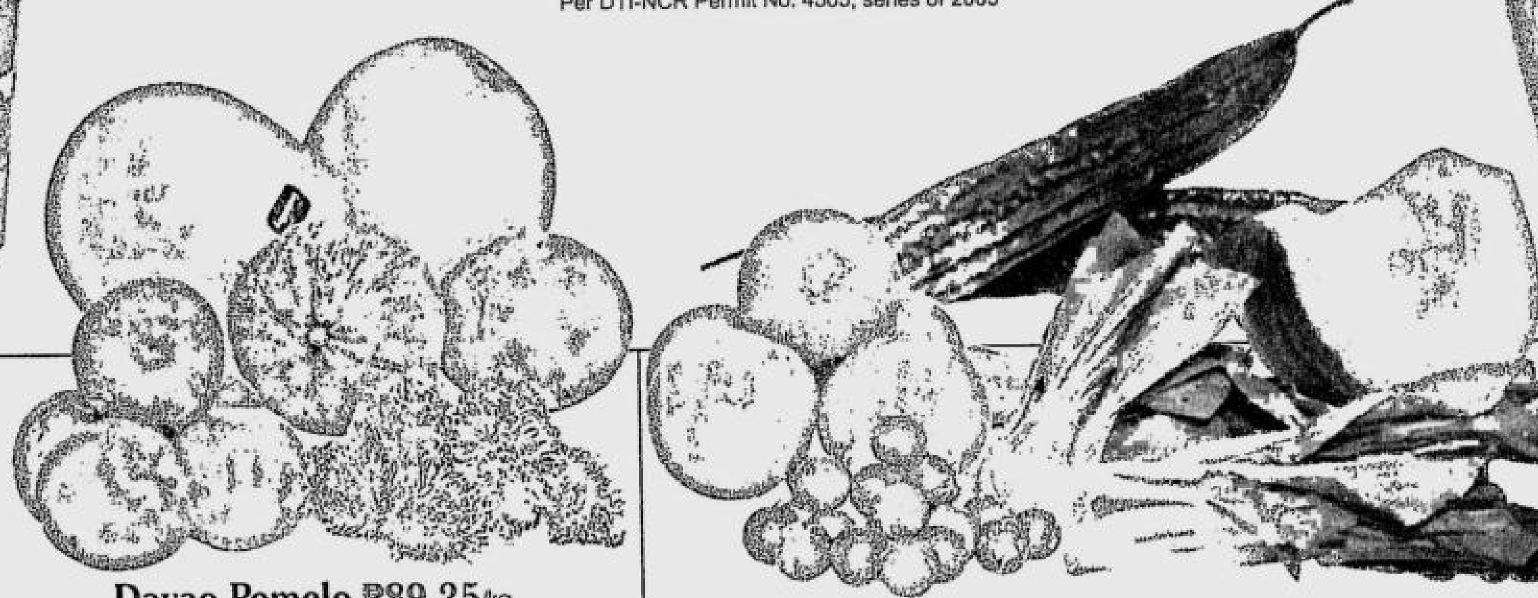

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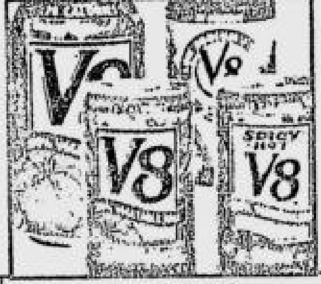

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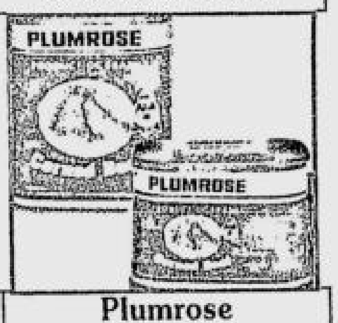

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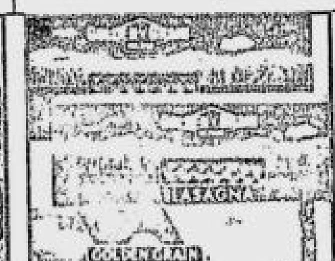

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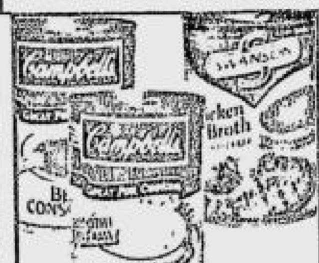

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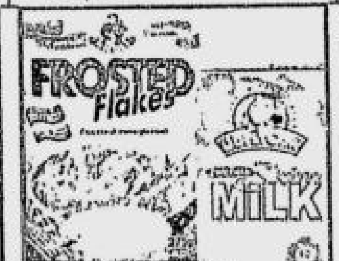

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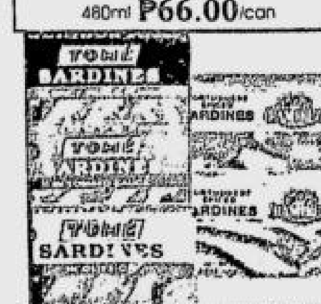

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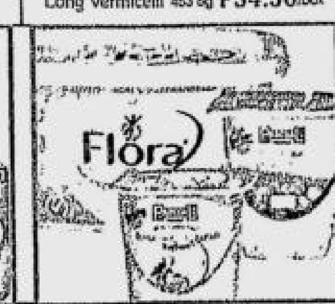

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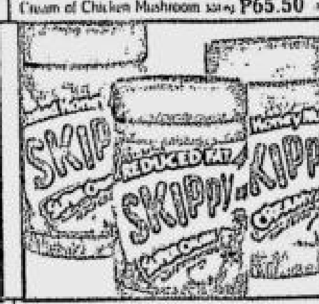

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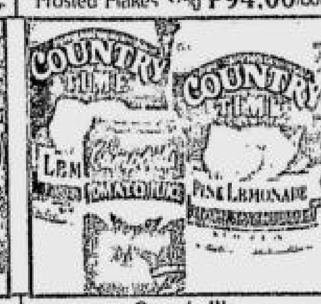

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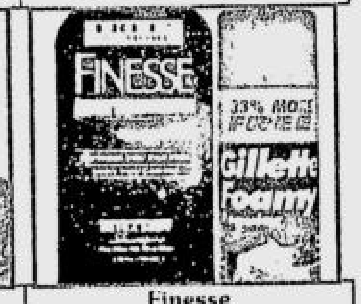
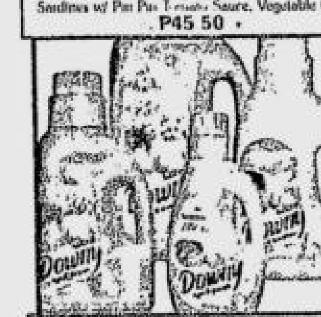
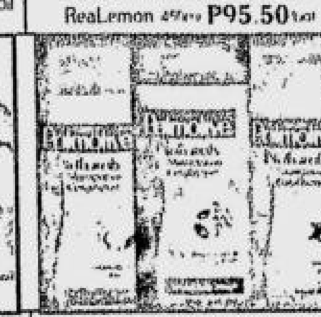
Taco Sauce Green, Red Mild, Medium
340.2g ₱129.00/bot
Spam
Spread Onion & Chives 85g ₱48.50/can



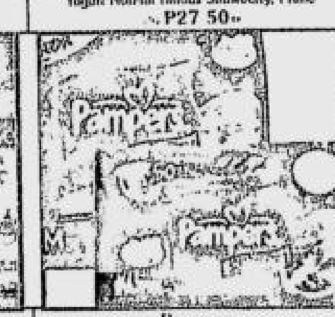
Finesse
Shampoo Regular ₱91.00/bot
Gillette
Foamy Regular ₱61.00/can
₱71.00



Downy
April Fresh Ultra ₱146.00 ₱286.00
₱366.00 Regular ₱189.00
Liquid Free Sensitive ₱281.00
₱381.00
Mountain Spring ₱146.00



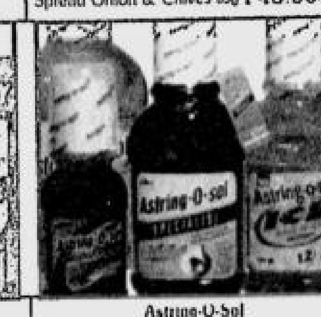
Palmolive
Naturals Shampoo w/ Conditioner,
Normal (Green), Dry (Pink)
Silky Straight (Violet),
Fresh & Bounce (Yellow)
200ml ₱65.95/bot



Pampers
Baby Dry Value Pack XL 34's
₱321.25/bag
Jumbo Pack Large 68's, Jumbo Pack Medium 76's
₱564.50/bag
Comfort Jumbo Pack Small 68's
₱396.60/bag

Softee
Plus Bathroom Tissue 2Ply
12's ₱122.10/pk
Value Bathroom Tissue 2Ply
12's ₱94.75/pk

Eveready Flashlights
Metalight 2D w/ 2 1050's ₱92.50
3D w/ 3 1050's ₱134.50
Steel Focusing 2C w/ 2 1235's ₱155.75
3D w/ 3 1050's ₱254.75
2D w/ 2 1050's ₱185.00



Astring-O-Sol
Mouthwash ₱46.20
₱78.40 ₱133.30 ₱175.90
Spray ₱58.60 ₱95.00
₱179.50
₱37.30 ₱62.80 ₱112.40

Lysol Disinfectant Original Scent
Spring Waterfall, Country Scent
Crisp Linen ₱230.25
Disinfectant Pine Scent, Regular, Fresh Scent
₱153.90
Neutra Air Pure Air, Fresh Water
₱135.50

'ICU Bed #7' has a subtle sense of humor

By Noelani Torre

WATCHING independent filmmaker Rica Arevalo's "ICU Bed #7" is an interesting experience. You will find yourself swinging from mood to mood, laughing one minute and sniffling the next—or, more often than not, doing both at the same time.

One of the nine full-length finalists in the recently-concluded Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, "ICU" is about a family that suddenly finds itself in the middle of a crisis. Joseph, the irascible family patriarch, suddenly falls ill one morning, and is rushed to the hospital by his two daughters, Cely and Beth.

He ends up in the Intensive Care Unit, so his children—with whom he has a love-hate relationship—have to make the difficult decision of whether or not to put an end to his life. Aside from that, they also have to deal with consequent problems that suddenly surface in their respective lives.

Dynamics

It is a relatively simple story, but one that allows Arevalo to delve deep into the dynamics of family, and to fully explore relationships between siblings, and between father and daughters.

Eddie Garcia is brilliant as the grumpy, chain-smoking and brandy-swigging Joseph. His performance won him the competition's best actor prize. His character is the fulcrum around which everything revolves, and he dominates the movie even when he is unconscious in a hospital bed and hooked up to machines.

GARCIA. Dominates scenes even when his character is unconscious.

Irma Adlawan and Angel Aquino play Cely and Beth, respectively. Adlawan holds her own against Garcia, and Aquino also turns in a solid performance. Noni Buencamino plays Beth's husband, who provides the sisters with much needed support.

This is a family drama with a subtle sense of humor that springs out in unexpected, but not inappropriate moments. It doesn't take itself too seriously, and does not drown the audience in pathos.

You'll find yourself often on the verge of tears, but the tears modulate smoothly into a chuckle at the next moment. "ICU" is no sob-fest—it's a bittersweet, funny film that is as real as most melodramas can never be.

Cast

The movie gives its actors the space to stretch their thespic muscles. You won't be disappointed with the heartfelt performances, and Garcia's is simply something you have to see for yourself. The other actors in the cast include Happee Sy, Arvin Viola, Andy Bais, Reema Chanco and Rito Asilo.

Arevalo's script won second place in the screenplay category of the 2003 Palanca awards. For her effort, she bagged the best director prize in the Cinemalaya competition.

Dream Day tickets discounted

MONTAGE

ONGOING until Aug. 31, all Robinsons Dream Centers club members can claim their two Dream Day ticket discount coupons for free, upon presentation of an RDC Club ID. With the coupons, they can avail of the ride-all-you-can tickets at half the price.

Dreamscape is at the fourth level of Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center, and features exciting and entertaining rides like the Super Sonic V roller coaster, Rainbow Racers, Convoy Ride, Bumper Thunder Cruiser, Mini Ferris Wheel and Roaring Rapids. Call 636-2911 or 631-7594.

'KNN' features

At 4 p.m. today on ABC-5, "Kabataan News Network" focuses on the Special Olympics in Cebu, the university town of Dumaguete, and a unique house with a star-shaped architectural design. "KNN" is also shown on Channel 4 at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

DEPP. Plays the eccentric Willy Wonka in Tim Burton's remake.

'Chocolate Factory' premiere

The gala premiere of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be held at Glorietta 4 on July 31. The hit film stars Johnny Depp as eccentric chocolatier Willy Wonka, and Freddie Highmore as Charlie Bucket, a poor but good-hearted boy who wins a ticket to go to Willy's wondrous factory. The film starts its regular run in the Philippines on Aug. 3.

Free show

The popular Orange and Lemons band will perform in a free show at SM North Edsa today. At 9 p.m., it's Shamrock's turn to perform. Orange and Lemons' performance is part of its "Strike While the Iron is Hot" album's promo tour.

'Lost in Time'

Catch Derek Yee's absorbing drama, "Lost in Time," tonight at 9 p.m. on Star Chinese Movies. The heartwarming drama features the award-winning performances of Cecilia Cheung ("Shaolin Soccer") and Ching Wan Lau ("When A Good Man Goes").

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 30 at 9 a.m., "Passionada." 3 p.m., "Undefeated." 12:35 a.m., "Avenging Angelo." July 31 at 10:30 a.m., "Kazaam." 12:05 p.m., "Lost in Translation." 3:05 p.m., "Blue Crush." 6:25 p.m., "Changing Lanes." 8 p.m., "Something's Gotta Give." 10:15 p.m., "Gothika."

On Cinemax, July 30 at 8 a.m., "The Postman." 9 p.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." July 31 at 6 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde." 9:15 a.m., "Two Weeks Notice." 2:15 p.m., "The Bourne Identity." 6 p.m., "Flashdance." 10:40 p.m., "Hollywood Homicide."

BEATTY. Topbills Arthur Penn's 1967 classic, "Bonnie and Clyde."

Wilson, Vaughn ham it up in zany comedy

From page A4-2

who await the coming of "The One," who holds the key to the doorway that allows the stranded spirits to cross over into the next dimension—or they turn into cockroaches! Unfortunately, this mystical passage only opens every 25 years—and time is running out!

Make no mistake, Raymond Lee and Adolf Alix's script contains lines that drip with caustic wit and comic irreverence; scenes that showcase Vhong Navarro's in-your-face comedy; gags that the easy-to-please *masa* can lap up; witty pop-culture references that make use of lyrics of popular tunes; a dance showdown (in a horror movie!), and cameos from Piolo Pascual and Rufa Mae Quinto.

Bernal even employs the gross-out antics of Hollywood's popcorn movies: For example, an impassioned kissing scene between Bella Flores and Jhong Hilario—etc!

But, the experiment soon wears out its novelty, and the audience is left wondering what the movie is *really* about.

Female stars' turn to shine

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR a long time now, Hollywood movies have been dominated by male stars. Just take a look at the annual lists of the most powerful film people in the United States: Men control most of the top slots, and generally beat the women, 70 to 30.

The same is usually true on the big screen itself, where male stars topbill many of the biggest blockbusters, while their female counterparts headline smaller productions, or play second-fiddle to the male protagonists as their love interests.

Miracles

Well, the times are starting to change, with more female stars clinching protagonist roles in some big or otherwise significant movies:

In "The Reaping," Hilary Swank plays the challenging role of a woman who doesn't believe in the existence of God. Thus, she makes it her business to debunk reported miracles, and prove that they are hoaxes.

But, she more than meets her match when she goes to a small, religious town to investigate phenomena that appear to be the 10 Biblical plagues!

In "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," Laura Linney portrays a lawyer who defends a priest in a most unusual case: He has been accused of negligence resulting in a young girl believed to be possessed by the devil!

SWANK. Returns in the thriller, "The Reaping."

In "The Island," Scarlett Johanson plays a childlike character who must transcend her innocence to survive a crisis. All her life, she's lived under restrictions and has accepted them, but she must now fight against those restrictions before they kill her!

Masked avenger

For her part, Natalie Portman, fresh from her triumphant dramatic self-transformation in Mike Nichols' "Closer," now shifts to costume action-adventure mode in "V for Vendetta." She is cast as a mild-mannered young woman who is rescued from a life-and-death situation by a masked avenger.

She then emerges as his unlikely ally in the attainment of his mission to bring freedom and justice back to a society fraught with corruption and cruelty.

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all day
canadian club
bunny
CON JEANS
1987
ATH. DEPT
21

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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WTO chief says trade deal still possible in 2005 /B3

BUSINESS

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

PNB profit surges sixfold in first half

Three years ahead of rehab targets

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE National Bank's net profit surged by more than sixfold to P315 million in the first semester from P40 million a year ago due to robust interest and fee-based earnings.

In a briefing yesterday, PNB president Omar Mier said the bank was now three years ahead of its financial targets under its five-year rehabilitation plan, having returned to profitability in 2003.

He said there continued to be strong investor interest in PNB, 67 percent of which will be bid out on Aug. 12. The stake is jointly held by the government and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan.

Given the strong first-semester performance, Mier said the bank could post a net profit of P620-P630 million by year's end. The goal set by the bank at the beginning of the year was a net profit of P604 million for 2005.

PNB's net interest income rose to P2.21 billion or 91 percent better than the P1.16 billion posted in the same period last year while fee-based income rose 22 percent to P2.77 billion.

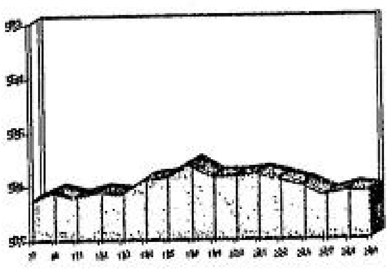
Mier said the bank kept a tight lid on administrative and operating expenses, allowing the bank to likewise put up a stronger shield for probable losses.

He said focused restructuring and the special purpose vehicle option enabled PNB to substantially slash its non-performing loans to P25.5 billion in end-June this year from P37.6 billion in end-2004 and P47.4 billion in

PNB/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P56.130 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 29, 2005

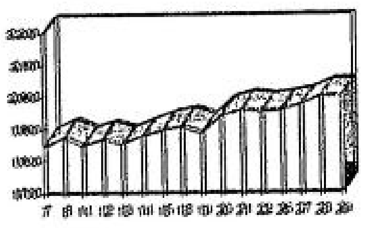
¥112.18 = $1
As of 3 p.m., July 29, 2005

GOLD: $427.40-427.90
per ounce Hong Kong, July 29, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed virtually unchanged yesterday as gains in telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) offset profit-taking in the broader market, dealers said.

They said the market remained generally supported by expectations of robust profit results for the three months to June, with investors continuing to target PLDT ahead of its results due out on Aug. 4.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 0.43 points to 2,000.25 after moving between 1,993.80 and 2,007.47.

Volume amounted to 417.2 million shares valued at P1.02 billion. Gainers led losers 51 to 33, with 45 stocks unchanged.

The broader all-shares index rose 0.01 points to 1,201.32.

"The market was due for a correction after three days of gains, but investors remain excited about PLDT's results," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

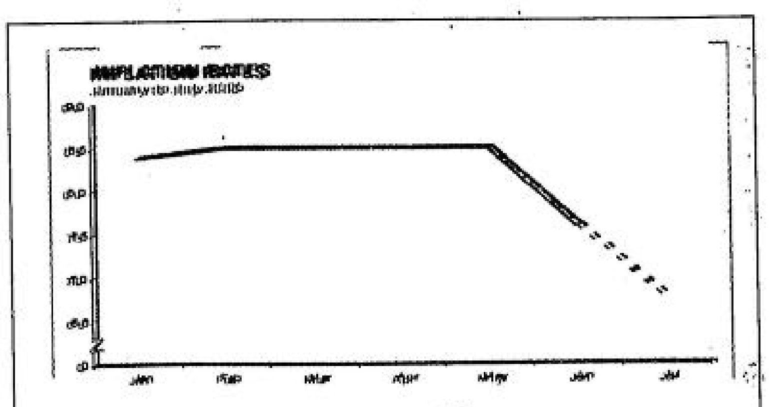
PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno has been quoted in newspaper reports as saying the firm's recurring profits in the June quarter may have exceeded the P7 billion it made in the first three months of the year.

PLDT, the most actively-traded share, was up P20 at P1,625.

SM Investments fell P1 to P219 while Ayala Land was down 20 centavos at P8.20.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank was up 50 centavos at P29.50.

San Miguel A-shares, exclusive to Filipinos, rose P1 to P70 but the B-shares, available to foreigners, were steady at P100. *AFP*



BSP sees inflation at 6.5%-7% for July

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate likely fell to between 6.5 and 7 percent in July from 7.6 percent in June as ample food supply cushioned pressures from high oil prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The lower inflation forecast is due mainly to lower food prices following favorable weather and front-loading of rice imports," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said yesterday.

With the favorable outlook on inflation, the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board decided to keep its key interest rates steady during its monthly rate-setting last Thursday.

"We remain ready, of course, to undertake the necessary monetary action when circumstances warrant it," he said.

The National Statistics Of-

BSP/ B2

George Ty firm ventures into hotel business

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY developer Federal Land Inc. of taipan George Ty is venturing into the hotel business with its partnership with Hong Kong hotelier Marco Polo Hotel Group.

Federal Land has tapped Marco Polo to manage the former Cebu Plaza Hotel, now renamed Marco Polo Plaza, one of the foreclosed pieces of property of the Ty family's Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

This will be Marco Polo's second managed hotel after its success with the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao.

Federal Land and Marco Polo are banking on Cebu's robust tourism activities to boost the operations of their hotel venture.

The hotel project is expected to cost about P1 billion while renovating the facilities will need another P500 million.

First Metro Investment Corp, the investment banking arm of the Metrobank group, is putting in P175 million into the project, representing a 35-percent equity in Cathay International Resources Corp., the registered owner of the former Cebu Plaza Hotel.

Federal Land is undertaking the development of the hotel property together with a joint-venture company it set up—Asia Pacific Top Management Corp.—to oversee the operation of the hotel.

Occupancy levels in Cebu is close to 80 percent to date, which officials said was achievable for the new Marco Polo hotel.

A major refurbishment of the hotel is already in progress. This includes the upgrading of all fire safety systems, electrical wiring and plumbing systems, the installation of the latest communication technology and the renovation of guest rooms and public areas.

Upon completion of the reno-

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Metrobank to sell P2.2B in NPLs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, will sell P2.2 billion worth of non-performing loans to Avenue Asia Co., an affiliate of one of the biggest emerging market distressed debt trader in the United States.

According to sources familiar with the activities of the bank, Avenue won the bid to acquire Metrobank's bad loans, beating three other investors.

The group, through Avenue Capital Management Asia, is keen on acquiring idle assets of Philippine banks. Recently, it purchased the bad loans of United Coconut Planters Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Avenue Capital is an affiliate of US debt trader Amroc Investments Asia.

The sources said that the bank is also planning to bid out P5 billion worth of NPLs at the end of the year.

The bank earlier reported its net profits hit P2.25 billion, higher than the P1.73 billion posted in the same period last year.

Arthur Ty, Metrobank vice chair, said that the bank is not keen on making new acquisitions at this time.

Ty said that the Bank of the Philippine Islands' recent acquisition of Prudential Bank would have no effect on Metrobank.

The bank expects to double its earnings by the end of the year to P4.5 billion, and hike its provisions for possible loan losses to P4 billion, from P2 billion in the first half.

BPI's acquisition of Prudential Bank has strengthen its standing as the second largest Philippine bank in terms of assets, just P20 billion shy of Metrobank's asset base.

BPI signed an agreement to buy at least 80 percent of Prudential Bank for P746.44 per share. BPI will acquire from the Santos family, majority shareholders of Prudential Bank, around 73.8 percent, and then make a tender to acquire at least 80 percent or as much as 100 percent.

State firm gets P125M to develop gold mines

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED Natural Resources Mining Development Corp. (NRMDC) obtained some P125 million in fresh capital to develop mineral reserves owned by the government, including the Mt. Diwalwal Direct State Utilization Project.

The Mt. Diwalwal project is estimated to yield 2,000 tons of gold each day.

Part of the fresh infusion from the National Development Corp. —about P50 million—would be used to acquire 20 percent equity in NRMDC. The rest of the infusion would be paid as a loan, according to Artemio Disini, NRMDC president.

The NDC is an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry.

With the entry of NDC, the equity shares of the DENR in NRMDC will go down to 46 percent.

Also, the NRMDC stake of PNOC Energy Development Corp. will be reduced to 34 percent.

With NDC as a new shareholder, the NRMDC may go ahead with its planned listing on the stock market before the year ends, Disini said.

Aside from the Mt. Diwalwal gold reserve project, the NRMDC is also in charge of gold exploration on Dinagat Island, as well as the development of chromite and copper mining reserves in Northern Surigao.

Disini said that based on previous studies conducted by the United Nations Development Program during the 1980s and the 1990s, there are significant chromite and copper deposits in the reserves that remain untapped.

"We believe it is time that we develop the potential of the [reserves] to take advantage of the big demand for chromite and copper in China," Disini said.

Also, the NRMDC has begun to systematize the mining activities in Mt. Diwalwal, Disini said. The gold mine's potential could translate to about $50 to $75 million in annual sales, and generate for the government $2.84 million in additional revenue.

Bet the bullet

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN CASE you were busy lately trying to get rid of your earwax, whether wet or dry, let me update you: Politics is the hottest, most animated contest in town once again.

It is still the kind of sporadic fighting today that has come and gone during the past 20 years or so, since we restored democracy in this country.

With tearful eyes, we remember how we flattered ourselves endlessly, since democracy returned without our spilling a single drop of blood, except perhaps for my nosebleed.

As a result, we would have, over the next 20 years, the same political squabbling, the same graft and corruption, and worst of all, the same high-priced karaoke bars.

Anyway, it is the same kind of power struggle that, over the past 20 years, earned for us the distinction of being the world's funniest clowns under a democracy.

Still, we must send the world a clear message that political trouble simply has to break out here for the noble purpose that some groups want to get themselves into power.

Anyway, the trouble just as easily goes away when those same groups succeed, but only momentarily. How it all makes our hearts swell with pride!

* * *

AS far as I can tell from hysterical media reports, on one side of today's passionate contest are groups that want to bring down this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

They are the "anti," meaning, they are against Gloriaetta, but they are also known as the "pro," since they are in favor of Gloriaetta resigning from her position.

But those groups' ear-splitting call for Gloriaetta to make the ultimate sacrifice by becoming an ordinary citizen like them, seems to have fallen on wax-filled ears.

Thus the anti-Gloriaetta groups, which are also the pro-Gloriaetta-resign groups, are now the "pro" impeachment groups, wanting to bring the circus to town again.

On the other hand, the "pro" groups, who are siding with Gloriaetta, are also the "anti" groups, since they are against the call for her to resign.

The pro-Gloriaetta anti-resign groups nevertheless are not necessarily anti-impeachment groups.

They argue that if the anti-Gloriaetta pro-resign groups want to send home this cute administration, those groups can only do so by following the rule of law.

That means the anti-Gloriaetta pro-resign groups should try to impeach her, and since this is the position of the pro-Gloriatta anti-resign groups, these same groups thus become pro-impeachment groups—at least on the surface.

Of course they will not stop at anything to frustrate the impeachment, which should make them also, in a way, anti-impeachment groups.

That's how clear all the political noise sounds to us down here.

* * *

SINCE we are already aware of the noise, a few hundred, out of more than 80 million of us, would be made to answer questions in survey after survey.

Those surveys are done by prestigious organizations which actually do nothing all day but ask questions in survey after survey.

As part of the raging political contest, those survey after survey must ask people some questions pertaining to Gloriaetta—and to her alone.

We are told that we, as concerned Filipinos who are trying to eke out a living, need those survey after survey badly at this time of political trouble.

For one, the public surveys are said to be the only scientific way for the public to feel the pulse of the, er, public.

Moreover, the results of the public surveys can then create some more noise for the consumption of ... well, the public.

And so do we trust Gloriaetta to lead this country out of the political trouble that she had the temerity of creating simply by being the target of the trouble?

About the last election, do you believe that Gloriaetta did not stand a chance of winning, and so you can now conclude that she won only because she cheated?

Finally, since Gloriaetta cannot calm down the political trouble that she started by being in power, do you think Gloriaetta should just bite the bullet, forget about defending herself and just pack up?

Those are the questions that we should ask ourselves as Filipinos if we are to get away with writing columns making fun of shadowy powerful groups.

* * *

DEPENDING on the media we use, we then get subtle information to the effect that, for Gloriaetta, either her days at Malacañang are numbered, or she is over the hump.

For in this awe-inspiring political competition, such a choice is becoming the favorite side bet. Will Gloriaetta make it?

Even foreign investors, particularly those who have billions of dollars in both investments and lendings here, come to Manila to watch the game live.

Of particular interest to the foreign fund managers, for instance, is the effect of the political wrangling on our sovereign debts. It is an obvious alarm signal.

Anywhere in the world, offshore funding always flies away, at the first sign of trouble, whether the bullets are flying or just saliva.

We happen to depend on foreign funding to keep our economy humming and, thus, to keep ourselves alive, including and particularly, the politicos.

Hopefully, the foreign investors could become so concerned about the situation here, they would keep on coming to Manila, thereby boosting our tourism industry.

At least their visits can offset a little of the dollar income that we forego in tourism at this time, plus the foreign investments that are on hold.

And so the call of the times is for Gloriaetta to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of the country.

After all, her enemies already made the ultimate sacrifice by making the call for her to make the ultimate sacrifice. Fair is fair.

* * *

BUT betting on the outcome of the political game is not limited to foreign investors. Count in the politicos, the families in big business, and even the political hangers-on.

Everybody is making a bet—pro or anti—but they somehow make it appear that they are betting their future because of us, the public, and not because of their own agenda. Otherwise they will be called opportunists.

For the sake of the country, for instance, Senate President Franklin Drilon, demanded that Gloriaetta should resign, and if she would not, his political party would impeach her.

Drilon was talking supposedly as president of the Liberal Party, which is part of this cute administration's coalition.

The media impression he made was that the Liberal Party has abandoned Gloriaetta.

It turned out that Drilon got the supposed party decision from a meeting of a small group of party members.

Not even the national chair of the Liberal Party, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, could come to the meeting, simply because he did not know about it.

And Atienza even claimed later that most of the mayors in Drilon's home province, Iloilo, already sent word to Atienza that they do not want Gloriaetta to resign.

And here's more. The Liberal Party has 34 congressmen. Only nine signed the impeachment complaint against Gloriaetta. What happened to the 25 others who, based on Drilon's announcement, would impeach her?

I don't know if it says anything about Drilon's leadership of his own party. But what can we make of it about his leadership of the Senate?

BSP sees inflation ...

From page B1

fice is set to release its July inflation report next Friday.

For the whole year, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the inflation rate was expected to average at 7.9 percent and then taper off to 7.5 percent by next year.

"The 7.9 percent outlook for 2005 reflects our assumption that the VAT (value-added tax) law (which removes many exemptions) will be implemented starting August of 2005 and that there will be a 2-percentage rate hike by January," Guinigundo said.

He noted that one mitigating factor would be a reduction in the tariff duty on bunker fuel.

BSP director for research Editha Alido said the BSP was expecting global oil prices to remain high in the foreseeable future, averaging at $49.80 a barrel this year, $53.47 next year and $52.21 in 2007.

"There continues to be strong demand for oil coming from the US, China and India as well. Aside from increasing global demand for oil, there's limited global spare capacity due to lack of new investments and there's threat of supply disruption due to hurricanes," Alido said.

She noted that the spare capacity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had now gone down to 1.47-1.97 million barrels a day from 6.5 million barrels in 2001.

"There's no expansion in the drilling capacity of the Opec and non-Opec countries," she said.

Meantime, the domestic economy continued to grow during the first quarter of 2005 but at a slower pace due to the moderation in consumption and export growth as well as lower farm output.

"Private consumption--the main driver of growth--decelerated as the increase in the prices of goods and services dampened consumer demand while sluggish foreign demand led to lower export growth," Tetangco said.

He added that other demand indicators suggested the continued presence of a slack in the economy as the unemployment rate remained sizeable, resulting in less optimistic business and consumer expectations.

"The continued evidence of moderate growth favors supporting conditions for growth rather than dampening demand impulses," Alido said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PNB ...

From page B1

end-June 2004.

The bank's NPL ratio improved to 23.6 percent of total loans as of end-June from 39 percent as of end-2004.

Taking advantage of its strong niche in the overseas Filipino workers (OFW) market, PNB also launched yesterday a new automated teller machine card that overseas remitters and remittance beneficiaries can obtain without having to open a PNB account.

About 28 percent of OFW remittances coursed through the banking system is being serviced by PNB, once the country's biggest bank.

The Global Filipino Money Card, a reloadable ATM remittance card, is now available in all 324 PNB branches nationwide and in select PNB offices and branches overseas.

The bank's text alert service informs beneficiaries when a Money Card is ready to be claimed. Funds transferred through the Money Card can then be withdrawn from any ATM.

PNB is the country's sixth biggest bank with total assets of about P221.6 billion as of end-June.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	19,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	1,074,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	729,200
China Banking Corp.	780	780	780	780	130
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54	540,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	48.5	49	225,300
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	34,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	537,900
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	45.5	46	35,600
Phil. Savings Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	21,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	28	28.5	716,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	15,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	1,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2020	2010	2020	3,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	82,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	1,032,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	840	820	840	9,160
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	5,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,656,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1605	1635	1605	1625	130,990
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.57	500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,400,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	205,200
Manila Electric Co. B	24.5	24.5	23.75	24	738,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,138,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	6,205,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.24	1.14	1.24	1,175,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	500,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	650,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	360,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,799,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	145,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,108,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31	31	30.5	31	230,600
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.76	0.7	0.76	410,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68.5	70	68.5	70	385,500
San Miguel Corp. B	100	100	100	100	65,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	90,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,470,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6	6	6	6	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	332.5	325	325	32,850
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.53	0.46	0.52	870,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5.1	6,330,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	23,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	2	1.96	1.98	1,051,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,650,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.75	2,670,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.6	145,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.14	14,672,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.21	4,830,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,420,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	3,112,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.2	1,629,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46	44	45	669,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	75,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,613,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	155,000
Medco Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	2,016,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	9,010,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	610,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc	1	1	1	1	2,290,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	550,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	222	217	219	790,500
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.67	420,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.195	24,480,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	2,030,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.5	7	5.5	5.5	3,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	560,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.38	1.44	1.36	1.42	4,085,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13	13	12.75	13	160,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	18,227,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.21	7,710,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	12,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.44	2,233,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.2	510,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.52	475,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	6,726,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.24	1.18	1.18	2,715,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.22	2,051,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	14,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	118,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	21,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	740,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	5,830,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	70,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	640,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	29	29	156,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	660,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	24,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	340,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	20,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.55	3.55	330,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,860,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	570,000

George Ty firm ...

From page B1

vation, the hotel's 25-story tower will have 335 guest rooms.

"The strength of the Marco Polo brand and its reputation for service excellence and Asian hospitality are the natural complements to this important hotel," said Alfred Ty, president of Federal Land.

Marco Polo Hotel Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Wharf (Holdings) Ltd., a Hong Kong-based asset growth-driven group with core business interests in property and investments in communications and container terminal operations.

The Hong Kong-based hotel operator has focused on the growing markets of the Asia Pacific region. It hopes to manage a minimum of 15 hotels within the next five years.

CURRENCIES

July 29, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.828226	1.000000	56.1470
Japan	Yen	0.007373	0.008902	0.4998
United Kingdom	Pound	1.445503	1.745300	97.9934
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106480	0.128564	7.2185
Switzerland	Franc	0.639853	0.772559	43.3769
Canada	Dollar	0.669978	0.808931	45.4190
Singapore	Dollar	0.497911	0.601178	33.7543
Australia	Dollar	0.625312	0.755002	42.3911
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.197003	2.652661	148.9390
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220848	0.266652	14.9717
Brunei	Dollar	0.496420	0.599377	33.6532
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000102	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019867	0.023987	1.3468
UAE	Dirham	0.225527	0.272301	15.2889
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.207400	67.7919
Argentina	Peso	0.289589	0.349650	19.6318
Brazil	Real	0.337914	0.407997	22.9078
Denmark	Kroner	0.134009	0.161802	9.0847
India	Rupee	0.019110	0.023073	1.2955
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220831	0.266631	14.9705
Mexico	New Peso	0.077727	0.093848	5.2693
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562616	0.679302	38.1408
Norway	Kroner	0.126006	0.152140	8.5422
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013892	0.016773	0.9418
South Africa	Rand	0.125147	0.151103	8.4840
Korea	Won	0.000803	0.000970	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.105675	0.127592	7.1639
Syria	Pound	0.015955	0.019264	1.0816
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025963	0.031348	1.7601
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000386	0.000466	0.0262

WTO chief says trade deal still possible in 2005

SOME 150 protesters demonstrate against developments in World Trade during World Trade talks in front of the World Trade Organization (WTO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Officials from the WTO's 148 member states kicked off a week of talks on liberalizing world trade.
AP

GENEVA—World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitchpakdi said on Thursday that a free trade deal was still possible by year end despite the WTO's failure to reach key accords this month.

WTO states are struggling to bridge divisions on how rich nations should cut their huge agricultural subsidies and open up their farm markets as well how to reduce barriers to trade across the global economy from industrial goods to services.

"I would sum up the situation as disappointing but not disastrous," the Thai former deputy premier said in his final address to the WTO steering committee overseeing the trade round.

Supachai, who will be replaced as WTO Director General by former European Union trade chief Pascal Lamy from Sept. 1, said that although no deals were reached in July there was a clearer idea of just what political decisions would be needed to achieve an agreement in Hong Kong in December.

"The situation we are in makes Hong Kong harder but not impossible," he told the last session of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) before the summer break.

The 148-state WTO had hoped to announce this month a significant advance in the Doha Round of free trade negotiations, but Thursday's meeting of the TNC and the executive General Council on Friday have nothing to approve.

Nevertheless, ministers including European Union Trade Representative Peter Mandelson and Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath have come to Geneva to stress their commitment to concluding the round.

"We have enough time (before Hong Kong) if we use it differently and better. What we need is political will, negotiating creativity and a great deal of effort," Mandelson told a news conference.

Failure in Hong Kong could trigger the collapse of the round, which was launched in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, suicide plane attacks in the United States in a bid to give a boost to a jittery global economy.

In statements to the TNC on Thursday, chief mediators for the round, which includes agriculture, industrial goods and services, rule changes and development issues, said tough decisions would be needed in September when negotiations resume.

In agriculture, where many developing countries feel they have most to gain, farm talks mediator, former New Zealand trade envoy Tim Groser said hard choices were needed in all three areas—domestic support, export competition and market access.

"The agriculture negotiations are stalled— there is no way to conceal that reality," he said. *AP*

SE Asia stocks close mixed

SINGAPORE—Singapore stocks eased on Friday but stayed in sight of a 5-1/2-year closing high, as investors turned cautious ahead of a raft of company results.

By around 1 p.m. yesterday, Singapore's Straits Times Index was down 0.15 percent, while the Jakarta Stock Exchange index pulled back from Thursday's record high, falling 0.35 percent.

Malaysian stocks edged up 0.26 percent, Thai stocks rose 0.61 percent and the Philippine index closed flat, just 0.02 percent higher.

In Singapore, MobileOne Ltd. rose 3 percent, a day after its chair, Lim Chee Soon, said the city-state's No. 3 mobile phone operator would soon come up with new subscription plans to strengthen its position against rivals.

However, STATS ChipPAC Ltd. slipped 6.6 percent to a two-month low, after a 6 percent fall on Thursday when the world's third-largest microchip packager posted a quarterly net loss and gave a weak third-quarter profit guidance.

"We expect investor sentiment to remain weak towards this counter over the near term and now forecast STATS ChipPAC to become profitable only in fourth-quarter 2005," said Daiwa analyst Pranab Sarmah.

In Malaysia, Proton Holdings rose as much as 8 percent to hit a 16-month high amid speculation the car maker's German partner, Volkswagen AG, was close to taking a stake in the company.

However, Proton lost most of the gains and was just 1.1 percent higher by midday.

"At the moment I don't see a story, maybe they are in talks but there are no concrete developments at this stage," said a dealer in Kuala Lumpur.

In Thailand, Banpu PCL rose 3.6 percent, having hit a 3-week high, on expectations the coal miner would report good second-quarter earnings due to higher coal prices.

DBS Vickers Securities said in a research note it expected Banpu to report an annual 43 percent rise in the second-quarter net profit to 1.6 billion baht. The broker rated the stock a "buy" with a fair value of 191 baht versus its trading level near 145 baht. *Reuters*

Japan output rose in June

TOKYO—Japanese industrial output rose in June while the unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low and wage earner spending increased, consistent with views that the economy is slowly moving out of a soft patch.

Data released on Friday helped to allay concerns that weak export growth would delay Japan's recovery, although price figures suggested the economy had yet to emerge fully from deflation.

Industrial production rose 1.5 percent in June from the previous month, matching market expectations. Shipments rose 2.0 percent as inventories fell 0.2 percent, the first drop in three months and a positive sign for Japan's production cycle.

"While the data alone doesn't show Japan's economy is strengthening, it at least confirmed that the recovery trend remains on track," said Akihiko Yokoyama, chief strategist for Japanese government bonds at JPMorgan Securities.

The survey by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry showed manufacturers' output—the core component of production—was expected to fall 0.2 percent in July but rise 1.9 percent in August.

Industrial output, which has been slowing due to weaker demand for exports, particularly in China, slipped 0.4 percent in April-June from the January-March quarter when production rose 1.7 percent.

One bright spot has been the auto sector, with data on Friday showing domestic production in June rose 1.7 percent for the sixth straight monthly increase. Auto exports grew 5.4 percent last month as US-bound vehicles remained on an uptrend.

Separately, the NTC Research/Nomura/JMMA Purchasing Managers Index, which gives an early snapshot of manufacturing activity, showed Japan's factories churned out goods at the fastest pace in 11 months in July. *Reuters*

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'Ligtas Buntis' success credited to health workers

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The government's family planning and reproductive health program has reached tens of thousands of men and women in Western Visayas, thanks to the creativity of health workers.

Carrying umbrellas with the "Ligtas Buntis" logo, health workers recently trooped to homes in Victoria City, Negros Occidental. In some areas, they spared no one, not even those playing mahjong, in enjoining people to listen to their spiel.

The caravan to encourage men to undergo a no-scalpel vasectomy attracted a lot of attention; while the men at first sniggered they also took time to listen.

As a result, "Ligtas Buntis," a controversial program of the Department of Health promoting family planning and reproductive health, has gained ground in Western Visayas, reaching close to a million men and women, or about 20 percent of the region's population of six million, DOH regional officials said.

Target exceeded

The program, launched in January, targeted 172,000 men, women and adolescents to teach them how to manage their fertility and avail of health services on family planning and reproductive health, said Dr. Lourdes Naragdao of the regional DOH.

But the results were overwhelming: the program was able to touch base with 1,041,886 people.

Of the provinces in the region, Negros Occidental had the most number of people reached at 416,000, followed by Iloilo with 345,000 and Antique with 116,000.

As a result, there were some 32,000 new acceptors of family planning methods in addition to 100,000 current users of various forms of family planning methods.

"Trust the health workers when they are in 'campaign mode,' they can reach out to our target clients," Dr. Paulynn Jean Rosell Ubial said.

Schools, offices

Aside from house-to-house campaigns, health workers also visited high schools and government offices to discuss why fertility awareness is important. They also talked about government services that have long been in place but many did not know about, Ubial said.

It helped that many local politicians supported "Ligtas Buntis."

But the campaign was not easy because the Catholic Church also went full blast with its campaign against contraceptives. "No to Ligtas Buntis, No to Contraceptives" banners were displayed in churches, offices, monasteries and religious-run schools and hospitals all over Western Visayas. The Archdiocese of Jaro held a rally at Iloilo City's Freedom Grandstand where the program "Ligtas Buntis" was lambasted by bishops and priests who said it was "anti-life."

Some priests have also criticized the counseling and information aspect of "Ligtas Buntis," saying it invaded one's privacy because health workers asked questions on sexuality.

Naragdao said she received reports of priests telling health workers active in the campaign that they were not fit to receive communion.

"But the commitment of our health workers made the program successful," she said.

Ubial said some directors of district hospitals in the region refused to perform tubal ligation and no-scalpel vasectomy for religious reasons.

DOH regional director Lydia Depra Ramos asked them not to deny men and women seeking such services and to instead allow other doctors and health workers to perform the procedure.

Failed marriage can shorten life

By Tessa R. Salazar

HONEYSWEET-IKAW ANG PAPATAY SA AKIN!

HEART doctors blame not only unhealthy lifestyles but also failed marriages for taking their toll on the heart. And postmenopausal women face even a higher risk of heart disease.

A study showed that postmenopausal women who are happily married have higher chances of living longer than those who are not.

"The study looked into the marital status of these women, and those who have good and stable marriages live longer than those with unstable marriages. This is important because [a failed marriage] is another stressor," said cardiologist Ramon Abarquez.

Abarquez said the study was published in a 2005 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

The doctor said the study showed unstable plaque buildup in 20 percent of those who considered their marriages satisfactory against 30 percent of those who considered theirs unsatisfactory.

Abarquez cited another study that showed up to five times carotid plaque progression in three years among those in an unsatisfactory marriage.

Health first, marriage next

"It has been found time and again that marriage is an important stabilizer of life. And people are happier in a stable marriage. If they are happier, they are healthier and live longer," Dr. Esperanza Cabral saidhen asked about the study.

Cabral said that while heart doctors were not marriage counselors and therapists, "we can certainly give advice and assurance and send them to proper experts for marriage counseling or marriage therapy."

If marriage is taking an obvious toll on one's health, Cabral advises that the person deal first with the immediate health situation, then with the marriage afterward.

Cardiologist Dante Morales said a worldwide study traced the causes of heart attacks and has identified nine.

"One of them is psychosocial stress and depression. If you have that, you are at risk of developing a heart attack," he said.

Abarquez said stress itself is not bad; the way one handles it is.

If one knows how to "unwind" and find psychosocial support, then stress is manageable. That psychosocial support, he said, is largely gone the moment marriage fails.

Outstanding young scientists

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE FOLLOWING crop of young scientists have made significant contributions in their field, even if they are below 40 years old. Two weeks ago they were recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology, and were each given a trophy and a cash prize.

Julie F. Barcelona, curator of the Philippine National Herbarium at the National Museum, has made the study of ferns and rafflesias her life's work. She discovered a new species of Rafflesia, called Rafflesia speciosa Barcelona & Fernando, large and smelly parasitic plants found in Panay. This species is one of our largest flowers and has made our country a center of active research on this unknown but endangered species. Barcelona is also involved in conservation, including of Mount Iraya, Bohol, and Mounts Banahaw and Makiling.

John Donnie A. Ramos, associate professor at the Research Center for the Natural Sciences at the University of Sto. Tomas, specializes in allergens, especially on the molecular cloning and characterization of the Blot 11 allergen from the house dust mite. (He was the first to determine the full-length DNA sequence of this gene, which is now in the database of the National Center for Biotechnology Information.) With allergic diseases on the rise and as many as 10 percent of Filipinos suffering from allergic asthma, his research is of great significance.

Scientific computation

Ricardo C. H. del Rosario, of the Department of Mathematics at the University of the Philippines Diliman, is an expert in scientific computation, especially in applied numerical analysis and control theory. He believes in interdisciplinary research, and has spearheaded cooperative ventures with various institutes here and abroad. For instance, the Mathematical Life Sciences Initiative includes not just the Math Department but also the Marine Science Institute and the Ludwig Maximillian University in Munich, and aims to use math in solving problems in medicine, physiology and marine biology. Del Rosario is pursuing a research fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany, modeling the activity of bacteria.

Mario Juan A. Aurelio, a structural geologist at the School of Graduate Studies at the Mapua Institute of Technology, studies the disasters that periodically strike our country, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods. He addresses problems in energy resources caused by geologic structures and insists that detailed structural studies are basic requirements to plan and manage these disasters. He received the National Research Council of the Philippines' Achievement Award in 1999, when he was only 34.

Cardiovascular health

Felix Eduardo R. Punzalan, of the Department of Medicine at the Philippine General Hospital, has contributed to further knowledge about the heart. He focuses on the improvement of cardiovascular health, which is timely because cardiac disease is one of the main causes of death in the Philippines. His landmark paper revolves around the high rate of mutation of the LDP receptor among local families with hypercholesterolemia (abnormally high amount of cholesterol in the blood). This paper is the first documented local genetic research in cardiology.

Ronaldo B. Mactal, of the History Department at De La Salle University, has made important contributions to the history of international relations or diplomatic history of the Philippines. Mactal has written articles in academic journals, books, textbooks and board reviewers. What makes him different from many other historians is his use of Pilipino in most of his writings.

Parallel computing networks

Two of my colleagues at the Ateneo de Manila University have joined this elite roster. Luis Francisco G. Sarmenta of the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science has developed Bayanihan, a framework to make possible the construction of inexpensive high performance parallel computing networks. He pioneered in the setting up of our Java Wireless Competency Center, which includes cellular networks. A creative educator, he developed a lecture viewer for distance education in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But Sarmenta may be most popular for his widely used free antivirus programs.

Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, director of the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, writes on human resource management, adjustment of overseas workers, occupational stress and technology and behavior. She believes in bridging the gap between industry and academe, and has established partnerships with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Society for Training and Development. She popularizes research through her People at Work Pulse column in this newspaper. She is co-editor of the book "The Way We Work: Research and Best Practices in the Philippines."

Other youthful achievers include Percieval F. Almoro (National Institute of Physics, UP Diliman), Christian Joseph Cumagun (Department of Plant Pathology, UP Los Baños) and Irene E. Samonte (Biology Department, DLSU), who received the NAST-Du Pont Talent Search Award.

Bella C. Cruzana (College of Veterinary Medicine, UP Los Baños) and Thucydides Laureta Salunga (Institute of Biology, UP Diliman) were given special citations.

Study: Circumcision protects vs AIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—Male circumcision significantly reduces the chances of female-to-male transmission of the AIDS virus, according to a new study by French researchers.

The study, conducted in South Africa, found that circumcision reduced the risk of men contracting AIDS during heterosexual intercourse by about 65 percent.

"There had always been a suspicion that male circumcision prevented AIDS...but this is the first randomized study using control trials," said Dr. Bertrand Auvert, who coordinated the study for France's National AIDS Research Agency.

Auvert announced the finding during the Third International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment in Rio de Janeiro last Tuesday.

3,000 study participants

The study was conducted between 2002 and 2005 with more than 3,000 healthy, sexually active males between 18 and 24 in Orange Farm, South Africa, where about 32 percent of the female population was HIV positive.

For the study, about half of the subjects were circumcised by medical professionals, and the rest remained uncircumcised.

All of the men received counseling on AIDS prevention. After 21 months, 51 members of the uncircumcised group had contracted HIV, while only 18 members of the circumcised group had gotten the virus that causes AIDS.

Circumcision prevented six to seven out of 10 potential HIV infections, said Auvert.

He said the study did not analyze the effect of circumcision on male-to-female transmission or if circumcision provides effective protection over the long term. At least three more studies are under way to confirm the effectiveness of circumcision.

Scientists said the study was cause for guarded optimism.

"While these results are very promising, we need to put them in a broader context to see the full benefits of circumcision. So we need to look at results from other studies," said Dr. Charles Gilks, director-coordinator of treatment and prevention for the World Health Organization.

A study funded by the US National Health Institute involving 5,000 individuals is currently under way in Uganda.

Gilks said he was concerned that the results of the study would lead many circumcised men to think they were protected from AIDS and fail to take adequate precautions.

He also worried that it would lead many men to rush to get circumcised, and said the WHO was racing to set guidelines for safe and hygienic circumcision.

AP

New anti-AIDS drug undergoes testing

BEIJING—A new HIV/AIDS medication developed by a Chinese company and aimed at preventing the HIV virus from entering immune cells is undergoing clinical trials.

Dr. Zhou Genfa, chair of the Tianjin-based FusoGen Pharmaceuticals, said that after four years of research, they have developed a drug which functions as an HIV fusion inhibitor.

"Normally, the HIV virus invades the human body by fusing the cell's membrane," Gao Fu, microbiology research institute chief of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said during a forum on new HIV/AIDS medication.

"So the key is to safeguard the 'gate' and prevent the occurrence of membrane fusion," he said.

Daily injections

The new drug is able to target HIV membrane fusion protein and prevent the virus from attacking cells.

AIDS patients and those who are HIV positive will need to be injected every day, said Zhou.

Zhou said he was inspired by T20, the first drug in a new class of fusion inhibitors developed by a company in the United States which was granted marketing approval by the US Food and Drug Administration in March 2003.

Cheaper drug

Zhou said his drug, which has been registered as a new medicine with the State Food and Drug Administration, employs a totally different molecular modeling.

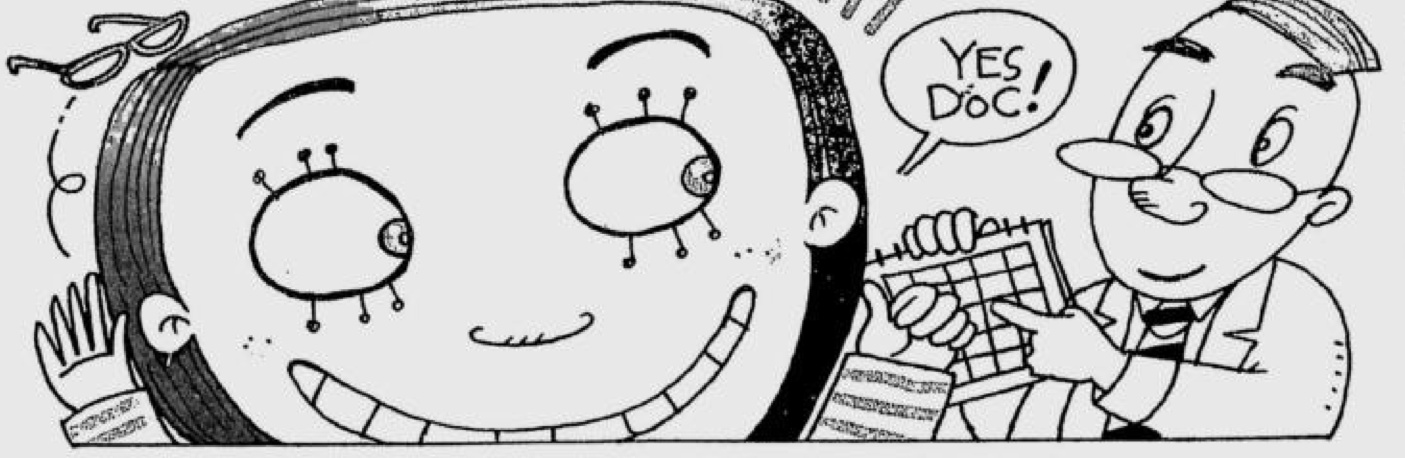
And its price will be "significantly" lower than T20 which can cost $20,000 per patient per year, he said.

The new medication is likely to hit the market at the end of next year.

China Daily/Asia News Network

Contact lenses have to be replaced often, says doc

By Charles E. Buban



WHETHER it's because of frugality, absent-mindedness or plain stubborness in following the optometrist's advice, trying to get more mileage out of one's disposable contact lens is a very bad idea.

People who keep doing this are at risk of damaging their cornea, according to Dr. Janna Romualdez, professional services consultant at Ciba Vision.

The cornea, or the clear front part of the eye, accounts for approximately 75 percent of the eye's light-focusing power.

Romualdez noted that many wearers seem unable to part with their disposable contacts despite the fact that they are intended for short-term use only, which is no more than two weeks or as prescribed by the optometrist.

"Contact lenses have to be replaced frequently to prevent discomfort, dryness, blurred vision and allergic reactions that can result from a buildup of protein/lipid deposits on the lenses," she explains.

Convenient, comfortable

"People think it's all right to wait until the disposable contacts start feeling sandy or the eyes get red, before getting a replacement," Romualdez says.

Because disposable contact lenses are manufactured to be convenient and comfortable, these attributes also contribute to why many people forget to remove them before going to sleep or wear them longer than they should.

"The problem with any contact lens is that over time, the lens material degrades. Although it may be imperceptible, bacteria get into the lens and protein/lipid deposits accumulate," Romualdez says.

As the deposits age and chemically change on the lens, they contribute to eye irritations.

"The changes in the chemical composition of the deposits also increase the probability that bacteria may adhere to the lens, increasing the health risk even without any subjective deterioration in comfort," Romualdez says.

This can lead to severe infection or corneal scarring, which according to Romualdez can go unnoticed until it becomes so serious that it would require major intervention, like a corneal transplant.

Single-use lenses

"One way to minimize risks associated with over-wearing contact lenses is to ask for a lens intended for single use. This way, the individual will be placing a clean set of lenses each day, which will significantly reduce the risk of infection," Romualdez says.

She says Ciba Vision has developed a more affordable single-use contact lens, called Focus Dailies, which eliminates the need to clean, rinse and store the lenses.

"This type of maintenance-free disposable contact lens should improve the rate of compliance since the wearer only has to remember to replace them each day," Romualdez says.

Based in Atlanta, Ciba Vision is a leading researcher, developer and manufacturer of optical and ophthalmic products and services. Through a high-precision and efficient manufacturing process, the company is able to offer a more affordable daily disposable contact lens product.

Oral-B making Filipinos aware of proper oral care

DR. SUSANA Sotelo of UP Manila shows a patient which teeth need immediate attention and treatment.

Text and photo
by Dianne M. Villafuerte

FIESTAS are characteristic to the Philippines. It seems imperative that each city—down to its barrios and barangays—should celebrate at least one local festival, assuring locals and visitors alike that there is always a fiesta going on somewhere in the country.

Considering the Filipinos' love for food, no fiesta is ever complete without tables brimming with samples of the local cuisine. But just as we are keen to have that superb gastronomic experience during fiestas, can we say the same thing about caring for our oral health?

With the objective of improving the state of Filipinos' oral health, Oral-B Philippines came up with a nationwide educational campaign dubbed "Oral-B Aahmbush" and, since April, have been raiding various town fiestas.

Proper oral health

Says Oral-B senior product manager Ming Arroyo: "The campaign is Oral-B's nationwide effort at improving the state of Filipino's oral health. We are trying to bring awareness levels for proper oral health higher especially for the lower income rural population." Fiestas, because of the presence of both food and people, make it the perfect venue to promote proper dental care and help Filipinos realize the importance of having good oral health, she explains.

To increase awareness of their campaign, the leading toothbrush manufacturer brought with them some members of the media as they "aahmbush"-ed several food establishments in Bohol during a local fiesta. Oral-B's roving dental team picked diners at random and asked about their oral hygiene. Dentists from UP Manila—Doctors Marcel Salinda, Susana Sotelo, Sheena Hembrador and Ria Gener—were present for those who would like to avail of free dental checkups and consultations.

Problems

Arroyo believes that problems with proximity to dental clinics and economic reason are two factors why people in the rural areas tend to postpone—and subsequently forget altogether—the importance of having annual dental checkups.

"This is why Oral-B will be bringing in dental experts to do this public service of checking on the teeth and oral health of people who otherwise may not have the time or means to visit their dentist," Arroyo points out.

And some of us may indeed be taking our oral health for granted. When one of the dentists asked the first Boholano patient about his oral hygiene, the man cannot remember the last time he paid the dentist a visit, answering only with a vague "*Basta bata pa ako noon,* ma'am." And when asked how many times he brushes his teeth in a day, the patient candidly replied with "*Mga dalawang beses, sa umaga saka sa hapon.*" But what about at night, before going to bed? "*Minsan kasi antok na ako.*"

Apart from the roving dental team, Oral-B also set up booths at Bohol's Island City Mall where dental checkups were also provided for free. The dentists emphasized to patients the importance of brushing one's teeth after every meal, changing one's toothbrush every three months and paying one's dentist a visit every six months or, at the very least, once a year. Patients were also reminded of the proper way of brushing one's teeth. Toothbrushes were also given out to encourage people to brush their teeth more often.

Affordable toothbrushes

Despite being perceived as a bit more expensive than most toothbrushes, Oral-B has a line of very affordable toothbrushes which are also of superior quality as the costly ones. "Oral-B actually has a toothbrush to suit all income brackets," Arroyo explains.

What makes an Oral-B toothbrush different from other toothbrushes? "It is the brand most used and recommended by dentists worldwide and no other brand can make this claim. In the Philippines alone, 81 percent of dentists use Oral-B. A differentiating product feature on all our toothbrushes is its 'indicator' bristle which reminds (users) to change their toothbrushes once the blue-colored bristle fades halfway."

Arroyo discloses that dentists recommend replacing toothbrushes every three months and clinical research proves that a new toothbrush can remove 30 percent more plaque than one that is already three months old.

Diabetes X

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

IN 1993, then President Fidel V. Ramos signed Proclamation 213 designating the last week of July as "Diabetes Awareness Week," hoping to draw consciousness to the sly and deadly menace that diabetes and its cohorts of metabolic problems are. We would like to give way to this informative article of Prof. Augusto Litonjua, one of the pillars of endocrinology in the country.

Our theme for this year's celebration is "Diabetes X" to focus everyone's attention on an important condition associated with diabetes and heart disease: Syndrome X, also called metabolic syndrome or insulin resistance syndrome.

People have metabolic syndrome when they have several disorders of the body's metabolism at the same time, such as abdominal obesity, high blood pressure and high triglycerides and low HDL (good) cholesterol. Studies show that this syndrome affects at least one out of every five Filipinos.

What are the components of metabolic syndrome?

- **Abdominal fat.** An increase in abdominal fat (having an "apple shaped" rather than "pear shaped" body) has been associated with an increased risk for heart disease. If your waist circumference is greater than 31 inches (for females) or 35 inches (for males), then you have one component of the syndrome.
- **Hypertension.** If your blood pressure is greater than 130/85 mm Hg or you are taking an anti-hypertensive medication, then you also have this component of the syndrome.
- **Dyslipidemia/abnormal blood fats.** We have a number of lipids in our blood. The most dangerous is low density lipoprotein, or LDL cholesterol, the so-called "bad cholesterol." But there is also the "good cholesterol," high-density lipoprotein, or HDL cholesterol. In general, the lower your LDL and the higher your HDL, the better. Other blood lipids called triglycerides can also be high in dyslipidemia.

Have a blood lipid profile taken. A triglyceride level greater than 150 mg/dl, or HDL cholesterol less than 50 mg/dl (for females) or 40 mg/dl (for males), is associated with metabolic syndrome.

- **High blood sugar.** If your fasting plasma glucose is greater than 100 mg/dl or you have been diagnosed to have Type 2 diabetes, then you have the final component of the syndrome.

Reducing risk

Although metabolic syndrome poses a significant health risk to individuals and is a growing worldwide health crisis, the good news is, something can be done about it. Here are some steps you can take to reduce the risk posed by each component of metabolic syndrome.

- **Lose weight.** Obesity is a major component of metabolic syndrome. By losing weight you can greatly improve your health risks. You don't even have to aim for your "ideal body weight." Even a modest weight loss of 7 to 10 percent will reduce your risks of diabetes and heart disease.
- **Increase physical activity.** Physical activity burns excess fat and increases muscle mass, reducing insulin resistance. You don't have to join a gym or buy any special equipment to get more active. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park at the far end of the parking lot and walk the rest of the way. Start by making small changes. For example, try to get at least 15 minutes of physical activity every day this week. Then each week add 5 minutes, until you get to the recommended 30 minutes a day.
- **Lower blood pressure.** Losing weight and increasing physical activity can lower your blood pressure. Medications can be prescribed by your doctor to help lower blood pressure as well.
- **Lower triglycerides and cholesterol.** Regular physical activity and a diet low in saturated fats and high in fiber can also lower your cholesterol. In addition, medications can help normalize blood lipid levels.
- **Stop smoking.** Metabolic syndrome is a serious health risk, because it can lead to complications including atherosclerosis and an increased risk for cardiovascular and kidney disease, not to mention Type 2 diabetes. Remember, if you have one component of the syndrome, you are very likely to have one or more of the others. And the more components you have, the greater the risks to your health.

Good news for HB patients with chronic kidney disease

LONDON—Telmisartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) in medical lingo, is effective and well-tolerated in patients with high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease (CKD), according to the results of a study published in April in the Clinical Nephrology. Not being diagnosed nor treated well, CKD is a worldwide problem.

In a new study called Efficacy and Safety in Patients with Renal Impairment treated with Telmisartan (Esprit), patients with mild to moderate high blood pressure (diastolic blood pressure 90-109 mm Hg) and chronic kidney disease (mild, moderate, severe or patients undergoing dialysis) were treated with once daily telmisartan 40-80 mg.

The goal was to measure the effects of telmisartan on blood pressure and renal function and assess if the patient can generally tolerate or accept it.

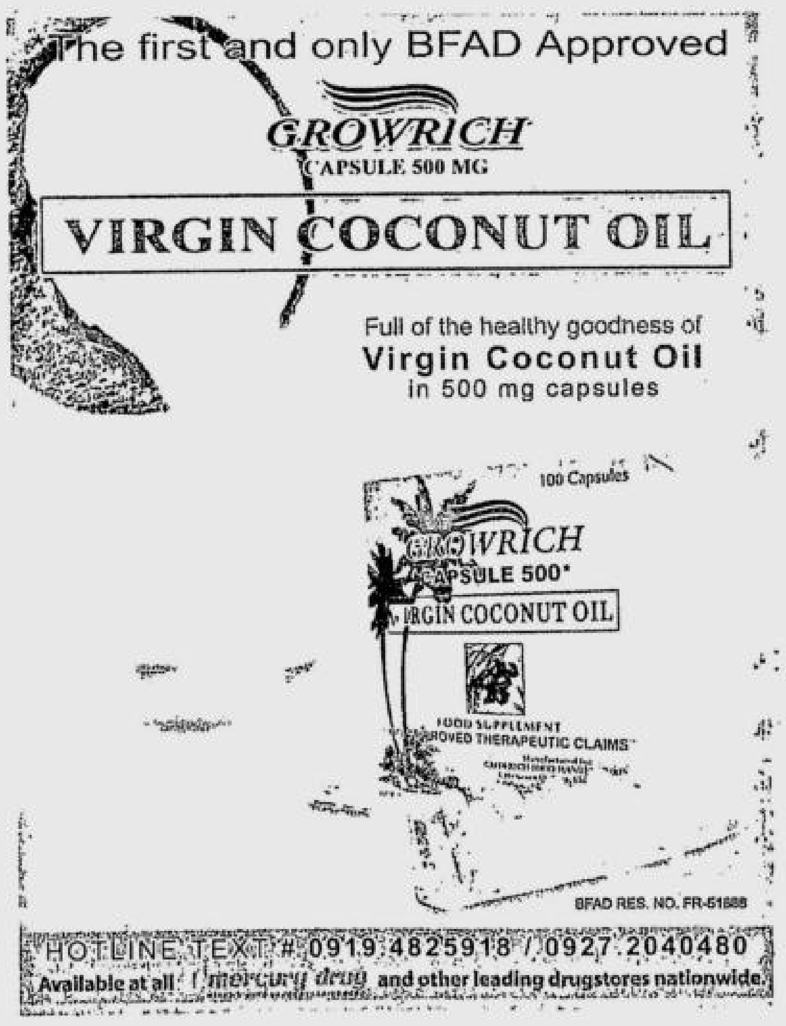
Confirmed effective

After 12 weeks, telmisartan was confirmed effective by the patients' response through diastolic blood pressure (DBP) and systolic blood pressure (SBP). Over 76.8 percent of the patients achieved the target DBP of less than 90 mm Hg or a reduction of 10 mm Hg, which is the primary endpoint of the study.

Moreover, telmisartan showed excellent tolerability, with more than 97 percent of patients complying with the treatment. These results demonstrated that telmisartan is an effective and well-tolerated treatment for patients with high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease.

Lead study investigator Dr. Said Arya Sharma, professor of medicine, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada: "High blood pressure is both a common cause and consequence of CKD. Rigorous control of blood pressure, with an effective antihypertensive agent such as telmisartan, is essential in reducing cardiovascular disease, the most common cause of death in patients with chronic kidney disease."

Telmisartan, discovered and developed by pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim of Germany, controls blood pressure over 24 hours with once daily dose.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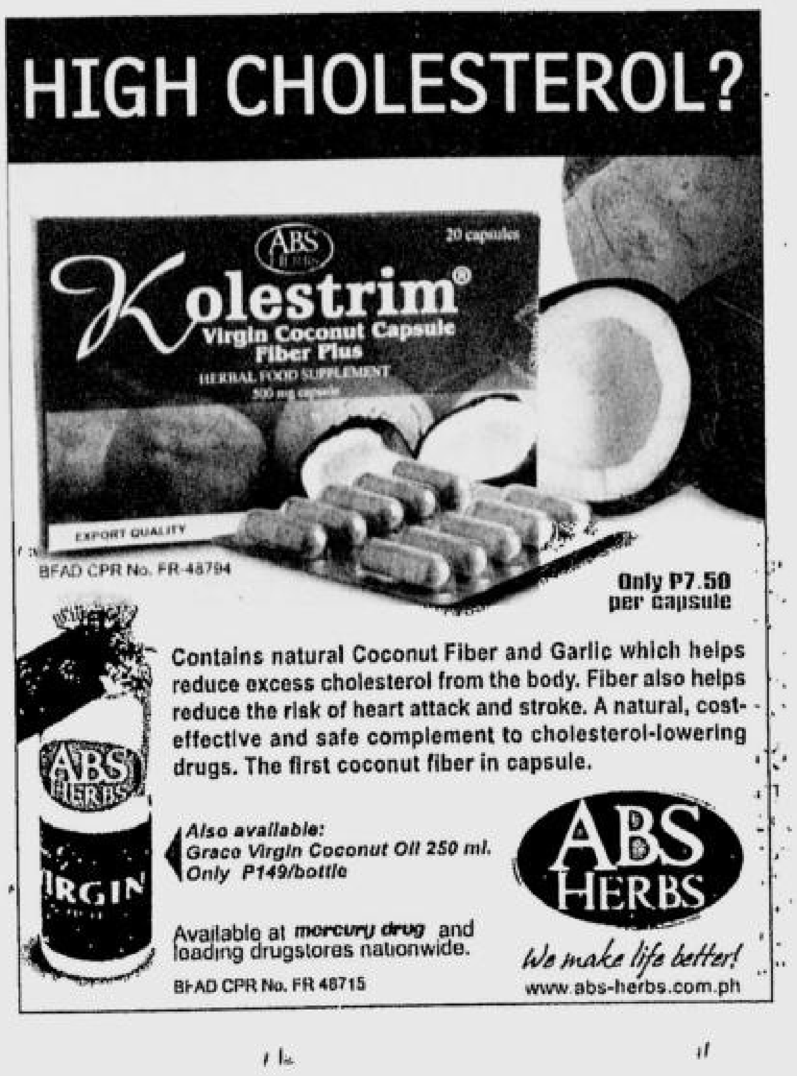
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COMELEC

Report to the Public

THE 2005 ARMM ELECTIONS WILL BE:

★ PEACEFUL & ORDERLY...

The candidates who will be participating in the ARMM Regional Elections committed themselves to a good and clean electoral race when they signed a Peace Covenant with the COMELEC on July 18, 2005.

★ TRANSPARENT & CREDIBLE...

For the first time, the COMELEC opened the joint COMELEC-AFP-PNP-DEPED Command Conference, on July 18, 2005, to the public, allowing all stakeholders to preview the plans for securing the sanctity of the ballot, and to input their specific concerns.

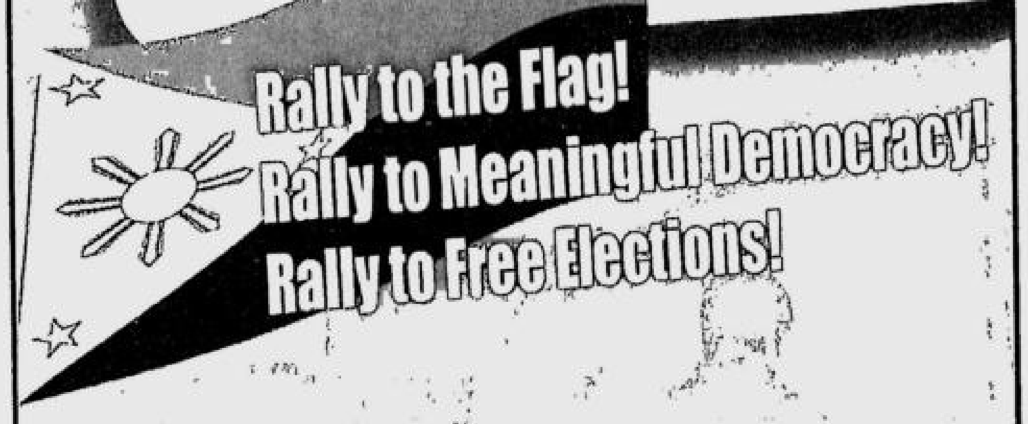
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION WILL BE:

★ STREAMLINED & FOCUSED...

The assignment of a Commissioner-in-Charge for every province in the ARMM will allow faster decision-making, and the presence of the CIC's in the field will act as a deterrent against attempts to defraud the elections.

★PRO-ACTIVE & MORE RESPONSIVE.

Special Action Officers = hand picked COMELEC Election Officers from all over the country will provide assistance during election day to ensure pro-activity and greater responsiveness to election day issues and concerns as they arise.


Rally to the Flag!
Rally to Meaningful Democracy!
Rally to Free Elections!

VOTE IN THE ARMM REGIONAL ELECTIONS ON AUGUST 8, 2005

Lanao del Sur, including Marawi City • **Maguindanao** • **Basilan,** except Isabela City • **Sulu** • **Tawi-Tawi**

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
San Pablo City

INVITATION TO BID
LOANS SECTION

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
1	150 sq.m. TCT T-540324 w/ 3BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 18 Blk 2 Mariquita Pueblo Bo. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P 563,200.00
2	150 sq. m. TCT T540240 w/ 4 BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 18 Blk. 7 Panoramaville Subd. Bo. Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	632,400.00
3	150 sq. m. TCT T-540323 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 18 Blk. 6 Guevarra Subdvision Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	544,200.00
4	92 sq. m. TCT T-542630 w/ 3 BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 24-A Blk. 2 Holiday Homes Bo. San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna	368,400.00
5	180 sq. m. TCT T-542631 w/ 2 BR 1 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 10 Blk. 3 Shineland Village Poblacion Sala, Cabuyao Laguna	551,700.00
6	150 sq. m. TCT T-540325 w/ 2BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 5 Blk. 3 Console Village Bo. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	486,700.00
7	148 sq. m. TCT T-542629 w/ 2 BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 8 Blk. 4 Console Village Bo. Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna	499,100.00
8	124 sq. m. TCT T-417911 w/ 3 BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 13-C Blk. 10 Holiday Hills Bo. San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna	483,900.00
9	140 sq. m. TCT T-370915 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 30 J. Brgy. San Roque San Pedro, Laguna	264,800.00
10	180 sq. m. TCT T-421933 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 28 Blk. 9 Ireneville Subdivision, Bo. Halang, Biñan, Laguna	442,600.00
11	350 sq. m. TCT T-417917 w/ 2 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 6 Blk. 7 Ireneville Subdivision, Bo. Halang, Biñan, Laguna	761,900.00
12	180 sq.m. TCT T-417835 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 18 Blk. 10 Ireneville Subdivision, Bo. Halang, Biñan, Laguna	450,600.00
13	243 sq. m. TCT T-370923 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 12 Blk. 7 Ireneville Subdivision, Bo. Halang, Biñan, Laguna	548,000.00
14	180 sq. m. TCT T-370907 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 23 Blk. 10 Ireneville Subdivision, Bo. Halang, Biñan, Laguna	443,400.00
15	280 sq. m. TCT T-493630 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single detached	Lot 1 Blk. 4 Kapitana Maria Subdivision, Brgy. Dela Paz, Biñan, Laguna	603,100.00
16	120 sq.m. TCT T-460397 w/ 2 BR 1 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 15 Blk. 2 Console Village, Bo.Dita Sta. Rosa, Laguna	390,200.00
17	216 sq. m. TCT T-417915 w 2 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 5 Blk. 4 Calindig Subdivision, Bo. Gulod, Cabuyao, Laguna	353,300.00
18	216 sq. m. TCT T-417904 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 16 Blk. 3 Calindig Subdivision, Bo. Gulod, Cabuyao, Laguna	291,600.00
19	180 sq. m. TCT T-493627 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 6 Blk. 2 Shineland Village, Bo. Sala, Cabuyao Laguna	488,900.00
20	216 sq. m. TCT T-370909 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 15 Blk. 3 Calindig Subdivision Bo. Gulod, Cabuyao Laguna	294,600.00
21	123 sq. m. TCT T-493631 w/ 2 BR 1 T&B one storey-residential unit	Lot 2938-B Brgy. San Cristobal (Interior) Calamba, Laguna	176,400.00
22	183 sq. m. TCT T-493629 w/ 4 BR 2 T&B one storey-duplex unit	Lot 25 B-2C Maryland Compound Bo. Majada, Calamba Laguna	609,700.00
23	180 sq. m. TCT T-417837 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 16 Blk. 10 Ireneville Subdivision, Biñan, Laguna	406,400.00
24	178 sq. m. TCT T-370925 w/ 2 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 6 Blk. 3 De Castro Compound Bo. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna	383,200.00
25	150 sq. m. TCT T-370910 w/ 3 BR 2 T&B one storey-single unit	Lot 13 Blk. 1 Console Village, San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	499,600.00
26	236 sq. m. TCT T-417851 LOT ONLY	Lot 9 Blk. 3 Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	448,400.00
27	200 sq. m. TCT T-370926 LOT ONLY	Lot 18 Blk. 3 Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	380,000.00
28	208 sq. m. TCT T-421931 LOT ONLY	Lot 19 Blk. 3 Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	395,200.00
29	200 sq. m. TCT T-417918 LOT ONLY	Lot 16 Blk. 3, Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	380,000.00
30	191 sq. m. TCT T-370922 LOT ONLY	Lot 6 Blk 3. Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	362,900.00
31	200 sq. m. TCT T-370927 LOT ONLY	Lot 14 Blk. 3 Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	380,000.00
32	200 sq. m. TCT T-370908 LOT ONLY	Lot 15 Blk. 3 Sunrise Village, Bo. Marinig, Cabuyao, Laguna	380,000.00
33	209 sq. m. TCT T-493628 w/ 3 BR 1 T&B one storey-single detached	Lot 4 Blk. 4 Asiaville, Bo. Masaya, Bay, Laguna	618,400.00

Complete description of the properties including Bidding Forms and Instructions to Bidders are availble at Loans Section, 3rd Floor, SSS Bldg., corner M. Paulino and Balagtas Blvd., San Pablo City. Please contact Ms. Edna C. Suanino-Tanguin or Rosette Arandia at telephone numbers (049)-562-1512 / (049)-562-5920.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at 2nd Floor, SSS Building, San Pablo City from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on **August 16, 2005.** The bids should be labeled **Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, c/o Social Security System, San Pablo City,** Laguna.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to at lesat 30% (if bidder is former owner, their spouses, parents and children) or 10% (if bidder does not fall on the preceding category) of the bid price in Cash (Philippine money / US dollar) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to the SSS. As a rule, cash bids shall be preferred over installment bids. An installment bid shall, however, be considered as more advantageous if the installment bid is greater by at least 20% over a cash bid. In case of installment bids, the bid with the shortest payment period shall be preferred unless the difference in the bid is greater by at least 20%, in which case the bid with the longer payment period shall be considered more advantageous to the SSS.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is". The winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable either in cash within 30 days or amortized up to a maximum of 120 months (10 years) at prevailing interest rate. If bidder opts to amortize, proof of income (ITR, business permit or Certificate of Employment and Compensation) shall be among the documents for submission on bidding date. Upon approval of the sale, the buyer shall issue twelve (12) PDC's covering the first year of amortization and the same number of checks for each succeeding years. Actual expenses or advances made by SSS for foreclosure and consolidation of title shall be added to purchase price of the former owner or his successor-in-interest.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) AVP MARIANO PABLO S. TOLENTINO
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late COMMODORE DOMINGO H. CALAJATE has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on July 14, 2005 before Atty. Ma. Concepcion A. Gloria, Notary Public in and for Manila City as per Doc. 230, Page 49, Book V, Series of 2005
(PDI - July 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONCIO SUMBILLO PUNZALAN was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share among his heirs as per Doc. No. 207, Page No. 42, Book No. IV, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Jose P. Perias of Manila.
(PDI-July 23, 30 & August 6, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that JESUS F. ORTEGA has self adjudicated unto himself the estate of his late mother Belen the following properties A parcel of land Lot 6209 NW by Lot 6202 NE Lot 6210 SE Lot 6208 SW by Mabini St., A Parcel of land Lot 1747 Cad 466-Dand Lot 1755 Cad 466 all situated in Alfonso Cavite before Notary Public Gil Genorga of City of Taguig.
(PDI- July 16, 23, & 30 2005)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division Offices, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts :

DIV/ADDRESS	CAMARINES SUR Freedom Sports Complex, San Jose, Pili, Cam Sur	QUEZON Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon		NUEVA VIZCAYA Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya		BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	BAGUIO CITY		ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur	ILOCOS NORTE Laoag City	ORIENTAL MINDORO Calapan City, Or. Mindoro	AURORA Baler, Aurora
		Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 1	Cluster 2		Cluster 1	Cluster 2				
Name of Contract	Replacement of 1 CL building, Pinaglabanan HS, Repair and Rehab: Bagacay ES	New Construction 2-CL San Marcelino ES; Repair and Rehab of School Buildings: Lolo ES, Sablang ES, Magsikap ES, PSON Uminay Extension, Magsikap ES, PSON (Maligaya Extension)	New Construction of 1-CL Ungos NHS. Repair and Rehab of School Buildings Gumhalinan ES, Abiawin ES, Tanauan ES, Little Baguio ES	Repair and Rehab of School Buildings: Almaguer North ES, Almaguer South ES, Bambang West CS, Lamo ES, Dupax del Norte CS, Macabenga ES, New Construction Lagpand Sobungan PS	Repair, and Rehab of School Bldgs Paganiano ES, Darubba ES, Quezon ES, Buscaran ES, Nalubugan ES, Aggub ES & Nagsabaran ES	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs: Camias ES, Bulualto ES, Sta Lucia ES Banlog ES	Repair and Rip-rapping of Perimeter Fence Pines City NHS - Magsaysay Annex	Repair of School Buildings: Quirino Hill ES	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs Sived Community School, Lnaingan ES	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs Ablan ES, Saoit ES	Re r and Re b of School Bu ngs Ma guiat NHS, Sa anano NH Kaligtasan NH	Repair and Rip-rapping of Perimeter Fence Pallc ES, Abungan Primary School
Location	Goa, Tinambac SD	Gen. Nakar	San Narciso, Infanta and Real	Bambang, Dupax del Norte & Kasibu	Bagabag, Quezon, Solano & Diadi	San Miguel	Baguio City	Baguio City	Sto. Domingo	Burgos	B gubong and Roxas	Dingalan
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 627,250.00	P 3,137,293.32	P 1,486,100.00	P 1,570,048.24	P 1,379,575.47	P 995,316.72	P 289,500.00	P 289,500.00	P 480,020.91	P 501,072.93	579,000.00	P 437,750.00
Contract Duration	60 cal days	75 cal days	75 cal days	75 cal.days	75 cal days	45 cal.days	30 cal.days	10 cal days	60 cal days	60 cal days	0 cal days	30 cal days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (Listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of the BAC activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	CAMARINES SUR Freedom Sports Complex, San Jose, Pili, Cam Sur	QUEZON Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon		NUEVA VIZCAYA Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya		BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	BAGUIO CITY		ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur	ILOCOS NORTE Laoag City	ORIENTAL MINDORO Calapan City, Or. Mindoro	AURORA Baler, Aurora
		Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 1	Cluster 2		Cluster 1	Cluster 2				
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1 12,2005	August 1-12 2005	August 1 12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1-12,2005	August 1 12,2005
Deadline for Receipt of Eligibility Reqmts	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15 2005	August 15, 2005	August 15, 2005	gust 15, 2005	August 15, 2005
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 23, 2005	August 23, 2005	August 23, 2005	August 23 2005	August 23 2005	August 23 2005	August 23 2005	August 23 2005	August 23, 2005	August 23, 2005	gust 23, 2005	August 23, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005	gust 24-30, 2005	August 24-30, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	September 6, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 8, 2005, 10:00 AM	September 8, 2005, 10:00 AM	September 5, 2005, 10:00 AM	September 5, 2005, 10:00 AM	September 7 2005, 2:00 PM	September 8, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 8, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 7, 2005, 10:00 AM PM	September 5, 2005, 2:00 PM	eptember 12, 05 10:00 AM	September 12, 2005, 10:00 AM
Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 20, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 22, 2005, 10:00 Am	September 22, 2005, 10:00 Am	September 19, 2005 10:00 AM	September 19, 2005, 10:00 AM	September 21, 2005, 10:00 Am	September 23, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 23, 2005, 2:00 PM	September 21, 2005, 10:00 Am	September 19, 2005, 10:00 AM	eptember 26, 05, 10:00 Am	September 20, 2005 10:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the respective Division Offices, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LI). Prospective bidders shall submit their Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. they may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bid Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 for the Bidding Documents to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for the expenses incurred in the preparation of bids.

The DepED BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

Approved by (Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 30 & Aug. 6, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 779
Series of 2005

AMENDING HLURB BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 626, S. OF 1998, BY TREATING DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) CONVERSION ORDER AS A POST REQUIREMENT IN THE ISSUANCE OF LOCATIONAL CLEARANCE FOR BASE STATIONS OF CELLULAR MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE, PAGING SERVICE, TRUNKING SERVICE, WIRELESS LOOP SERVICE AND OTHER COMMUNICATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, HLURB Resolution No. 626, series of 1998, established the Locational Guidelines on base stations of cellular mobile telephone service, paging service, trunking service, wireless local loop service and other wireless communication services;

WHEREAS, Section IV-A of said Resolution enumerates the requirements of securing a locational clearance for base station projects, which includes among others, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Conversion Order;

WHEREAS, base stations can be located on top of buildings or on the ground hence requires relatively small areas and do not necessarily alter the general character of the area;

WHEREAS, the Board continue to receive feedback from stakeholders on the lengthy process of securing a DAR Conversion Order, regardless of the size of area subject of application;

WHEREAS, Section IV-C of the same Resolution states that the "Locational Clearance approved by the HLURB or the local government unit concerned does not exempt the project from pertinent requirements of other government agencies," hence DAR conversion order can be treated as a post requirement for locational clearance;

WHEREAS, there is a need to support the current thrust of the government to promote economic activity through streamlining of procedures for securing permits and clearances;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to amend Section IV-A of HLURB Resolution No. 626, series of 1998, as follows:

Resolution No. 779, Series of 2005

Amending HLURB Board Resolution No. 626 S. of 1998, by Treating Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Conversion Order as a Post Requirement in the Issuance o of Locational Clearance for Base Stations of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, Paging Service, Trunking Service, Wireless Loop Service and Other Communication Services

"IV. Requirements and Procedures in Securing Locational Clearance

A. The following documents shall be submitted in duplicate:

a. Vicinity Map
Drawn to a scale of 1:1,000 showing the exact location of the proposed base station and major land marks within a radius of 200 meters.

b. Site Plan
Drawn to a minimum scale of 1:500 indicating the following features
b.1 layout of proposed project showing all structures
b.2 area and boundaries of lot (property line)

c. Evidence of ownership in the form of Certified True Copy of original Transfer Certificate of Title. In the absence of the foregoing, a Contract to Sell or Lease; or written and duly notarized owner's consent to use; or tax declaration with proof of ownership from assessor's office will do.

d. Certified true copy of National Telecommunication Commission's Provisional Authority (PA). In the absence of the foregoing, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or Certificate of Registration to Provide Telecommunication Services which may operate the Wireless Services will do.

[e. Conversion Order from the Department of Agrarian Reform if the project is located within an agricultural zone]

e. Radiation Protection Evaluation Report from Radiation Health Service of the Department of Health.

f. Written Consent:

f.1 Subdivisions

f.1.1 Approval of the governing board/body of the duly constituted Homeowners Association (HOA) if base station is located within a residential zone with established HOA and including all members whose properties are adjoining the proposed site of the base station. (Refer to Figure 1)

f.1.2 In the absence of an established HOA, consent/affidavit of non-objection from majority of actual occupants and owners of properties within a radial distance equivalent to the height of the proposed base station measured from its base, including all those whose properties is adjoining the proposed site of the base station. (Refer to Figure2)

f.2 Buildings

f.2.1 If base station shall be constructed on top of an unoccupied building, consent from the owner/developer. (Refer to Figure 3)

f.2.2 If base station shall be constructed on top of an occupied building, the following shall be obtained:

a. consent/affidavit of non-objection from owner/ developer unless he has divested himself from all interest in the building and turned over ownership of common areas to the condominium or building association; and

b. approval of the governing board/body of the duly constituted condominium association or building association including all tenants occupying the top most floor directly below the base station and in addition, the consent of the owner and majority of tenants of the adjoining buildings. (Refer to Figure 4)

g. Barangay Council Resolution endorsing the base station
h. Bill of Materials and Estimated Cost
i. Locational Clearance Fees payable to HLURB or to LGU with approved CLUP after 01 January 1989
j. Authorization of persons allowed to follow-up the clearance."

APPROVED this 19th day of May, 2005.
Makati City

THE HONORABLE NOLI L. DE CASTRO
Vice-President of the Philippines & HUDCC Chairman

RAMON J. LIWAG
Undersecretary, DOJ

ROMULO Q.M. FABUL
Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer

EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN, JR.
Undersecretary, DILG

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director Genral, NEDA

FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN
Commissioner

JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH

JESUS YAP PANG
Commissionr

Attested:
CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board-Secretary

(PDI – July 30, 2005)

R.A. Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Palawan
Municipality: Brooke's Point

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that DOROTHY RUTH B. GRASPARIL - LEONCIO has filed with this Office a petition for change of her first name from DOROTHY to DOROTHY RUTH in her Certificate of Live Birth. She was born on 13 September 1960 at FEU Hospital, Manila and her parents are DANTE E. GRASPARIL and HEDELIZA M. BACONGALLO.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written oppossition with this Office not later than 2 August 2005.

(Sgd.) SALVE CORAZON T. VILLARUEL
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - July 30 & Aug. 6, 2005)

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AMANDA Parras CASTRO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 27, 2005 at the age of 71.

Her bereaved family; husband **Eng. Tomas M. Castro, Jr.**; children **Melvin & Cecile; Vivien & Butch Espina, Grace & Alan Esquillon,** and **Tomas III;** grandchildren **Nikki, Angeli, Joshua; Valerie, Kyla; Jacyn** and **Leon**; siblings, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the St. Paul Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Boulevard.

Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, on Sunday July 31, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. mass at the Sto. Domingo St. Paul Chapel.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We,

the bereaved children; **Melody & Victor, Ramoncito & Emelinda, Dominador, Jr. & Marilou, Ma. Lourdes & Laureano, Jr.**, grandchildren, brother, sisters and other relatives of

NENITA MENDOZA VENEGAS

(wife of the late **Cong. Dominador N. Venegas, Sr.**)

who peacefully joined the Lord on July 19, 2005

wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

We find strength and are humbly grateful to God in knowing that she touched so many lives and organizations in her concern for others. She will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to her legacy of love.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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> so loved the
> world, that He
> gave His only
> begotten Son,
> that whoever
> believes in
> Him shall not
> perish but have
> everlasting
> life."
> John 3:16

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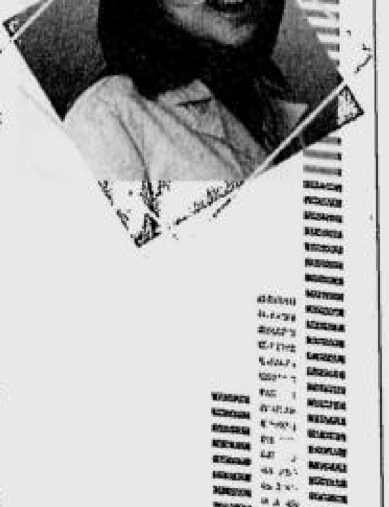

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item/Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-212	2 units ECCS Machine Plus: Two (2) Years Maintenance Service	P 2,756,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **August 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **August 2, 2005, 2:00 PM,** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI - July 23 & 30, 2005)

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PLUGGING REVENUE LEAKS

DOF wants LGUs to collect VAT on local level

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is looking at deputizing local government officials to collect value-added tax and go after tax delinquent businesses in their areas.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the DOF has started discussions with treasurers of local government units regarding the plan, which the government hopes would plug huge revenue leaks arising from non-payment of taxes.

A study from the National Tax Research Center said the government had been losing an average of P41.6 billion in potential VAT revenue a year, from 1998 to 2002, as a result either of non-issuance of official receipt, under-declaration of sales or excessive claims of input VAT credits.

Teves announced the plan following a proposal raised by the Provincial and City Treasurers Association of the Philippines (Pactap). The treasurers' group earlier volunteered to help the national government collect VAT.

Pactap president Victor Endriga said the national government would benefit from the proposal through increased VAT collection. He said local government units are more familiar with the operations of business establishments in their areas, and therefore could better check on their tax compliance.

Endriga, however, said the local government units would need to come up with a data-sharing scheme with the Bureau of Internal Revenue in order for the plan to work.

Under the Pactap's proposed data-sharing agreement, the BIR would provide basic taxpayer information, such as income statements, to the local government treasurers. The treasurers would then use the data to investigate business establishments suspected of tax delinquency.

The BIR was earlier reluctant with the idea of sharing information with local government units, saying it would have to study first whether the move would violate the secrecy provision under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC).

But Teves said the DOF, BIR's head agency, was now open to the proposed data-sharing agreement if it were necessary in pursuing the plan of deputizing local government treasurers to collect VAT.

RP one step closer to free trade deal with US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY will be closer to sealing a free trade deal with the United States once a study assessing the possible impact of such an agreement between the two countries is completed in September, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Acting Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila yesterday said the DTI commissioned the Philippine Institute of Development Studies last year to do the study, in response to a long-standing invitation by the US under its Enterprise for Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Initiative or EAI.

Favila said the study covers impact analysis on the general economy, as well as on specific sectors.

Findings of the study would be validated through regional public consultations to be held in major cities around the country beginning October.

Participation of the private sector, as key stakeholders in this initiative, is crucial to the process of gearing up for possible FTA negotiations, he said.

The government would work closely with the private sector in drawing up the appropriate negotiating strategy, defining in concrete and measurable terms the economic benefits to be derived from an FTA with the US, he added.

"More importantly, we will identify the necessary structural adjustments to ensure that our industries remain competitive in an FTA environment," Favila said. "When these have been established, then the Philippines will pursue formal negotiations with the United States."

The US, currently the second-largest trading partner of the Philippines after Japan, has established several regional and bilateral FTAs worldwide.

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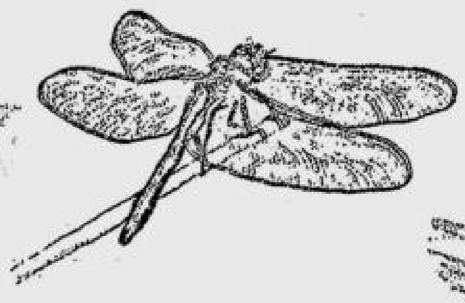
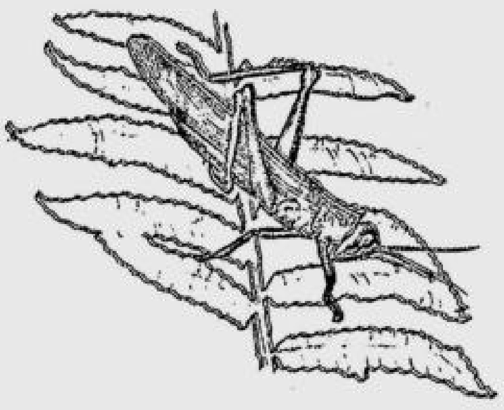


Nectarinia jugularis
OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD



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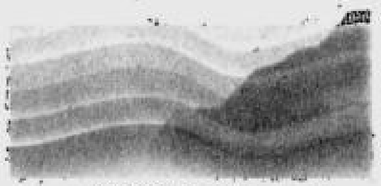

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sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

More buyers choosing countryside living

By Charles E. Buban

ALTHOUGH FACTORS such as budget, property specification and availability play an important part, most Filipinos seem to begin their search for a home by looking at geographic location first.

This was noted by one developer whose residential developments are mostly located outside Metro Manila.

"Most of our inquiring homebuyers chose proximity to the countryside as the most important factor when choosing where to live. It seems they value being near green open space more than living close to highly urbanized areas," says Karen Agbunag of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. (MRMI).

She says that once they've decided on an area in which they want to live, other factors then come into play.

Lots of inquiries

This is also one reason MRMI is reporting a lot of inquiries in their latest project in Cavite, the Metrogate Dasmariñas, a 56-hectare subdivision on Governor's Drive.

"Although we offer modern life's amenities such as clubhouse complex, a multipurpose pavilion, a swimming pool, centralized water supply, a playground and basketball and tennis courts, the location of the subdivision is still very countryside in ambiance," says Agbunag who reports that the subdivision has just opened its Phase 4.

Lot areas at Metrogate Dasmariñas range from 120 to 400 square meters and are priced between P384,000 and P2.720 million although MRMI also offer house and lot packages.

DESPITE modern-day living amenities such as the clubhouse and swimming pool, Metrogate Dasmariñas still possess that countryside ambiance preferred by its home buyers.

Incentives

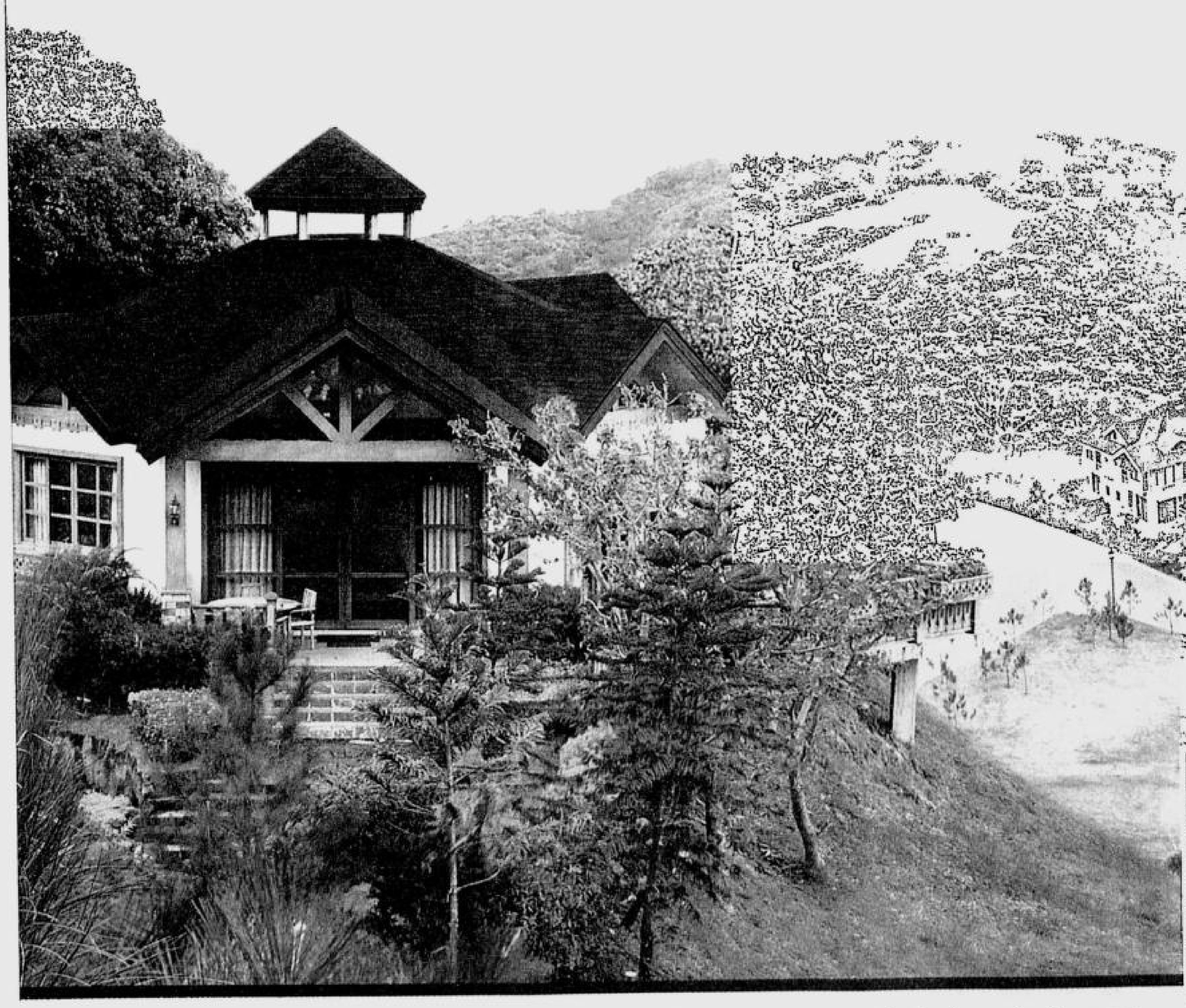
Agbunag also informs that MRMI will be giving incentives and price discounts to those who will be attending its "Bagyo ng benta, bagyo ng saya sa pamilya" affair today. There will be family activities and free use of the subdivision's amenities.

"It is noteworthy that majority of our homeowners at Metrogate Dasmariñas want to have quiet living, which enables them to get away from congested living. Perhaps to live away from cities and avoid the congestion and pollution is also what attracting new home buyers to choose the subdivision," she reports.

MRMI has made its mark in the real estate industry through the introduction of quality residential subdivisions and housing projects commonly known by their trademark names "MetroGate" and "Heritage Homes."

The MRMI, a subsidiary company of the Moldex Group of Companies, is the exclusive marketing arm of Moldex Realty and Moldex Land, which concentrates on building condominium and townhouse projects.

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay:
A Swiss Sanctuary



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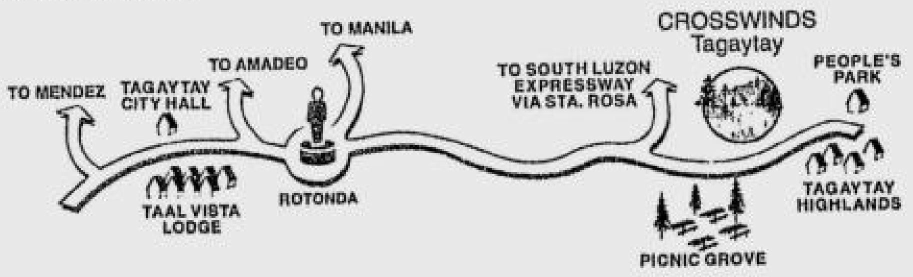

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The greenest, most energy-efficient buildings in Asean

(Second of three parts)

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

THE PHILIPPINES, according to some experts, is around 10 years behind some of the leading countries in Asean in terms of energy efficiency.

The fact that we are mostly dependent on oil-producing countries for our energy needs makes it critical that we are conscious of energy efficiency, given the whopping world oil prices.

The good news is that the government, through the Department of Energy, has not been idle in its mission to curb excessive and unnecessary use of energy, particularly in the industry sector. The bad news is that many in the commercial and residential sectors have done very little to cooperate with government to cut down on energy use. Many in the private sector are either unaware or complacent to this government campaign, despite the continuous awareness programs.

One way to see whether the government campaign is successful is by analyzing how we have been doing in the annual Asean Energy Awards.

The annual Asean Energy Awards ending in 2009 recognizes outstanding work for excellence, creativity, practicality and dedication to a cause in the field of energy. Competing entries are prequalified by the Department of Energy in each country. Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges, made up of one representative from each member-country of Asean.

The competition aims to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation. This recognition program for energy-efficient buildings encourages others to replicate and promote energy management programs in the building sector.

Retrofitted building category

This category includes buildings that have been existing for more than five years and have undergone major changes to improve energy efficiency.

The building types included are offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals due to their predictable hours of operation.

Highlighted features

Winner, Plaza BII Building, Indonesia

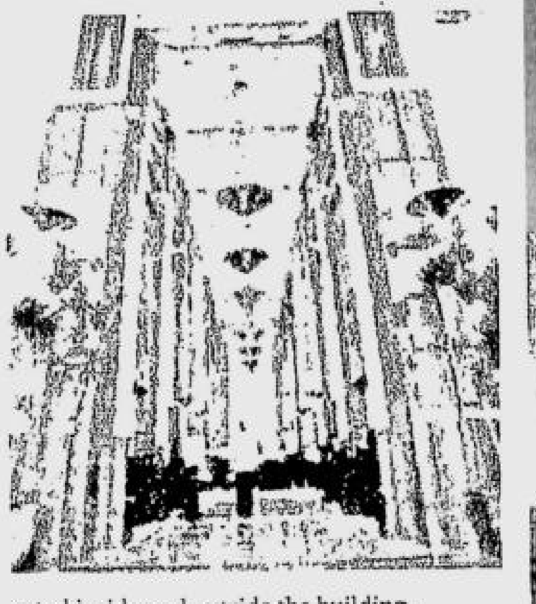
Located in the heart of Jakarta's business district, the building complex is made up of three towers and an open plaza with unique water features. At the entrance level is a five-story column-free lobby, with a 45-nozzle flag water fountain with landscaping surrounding the open spaces. This provides natural cool air before entering the fully air-conditioned main lobby.

To avoid direct sunlight and heat, the rectangular concrete building is oriented facing north-south. To further reduce heat absorption, radiation repelling glass curtain wall was used.

To enhance the use of daylight, bright-colored materials are used for the walls and ceilings. For the large lobby, solar reflective glass walls were used to maximize the use of sunlight during the day.

Extensive landscaping helps supply precooled fresh air into the building and contributes to the greening of the city.

To save on energy for lighting, each floor is divided into eight zones to allow flexibility in use. They are turned off automatically after office hours. However, the tenant can manually control them after office hours upon request.



The air-conditioning systems are designed to be flexible and responsive to the fluctuating needs of the tenants based on sensors located inside and outside the building.

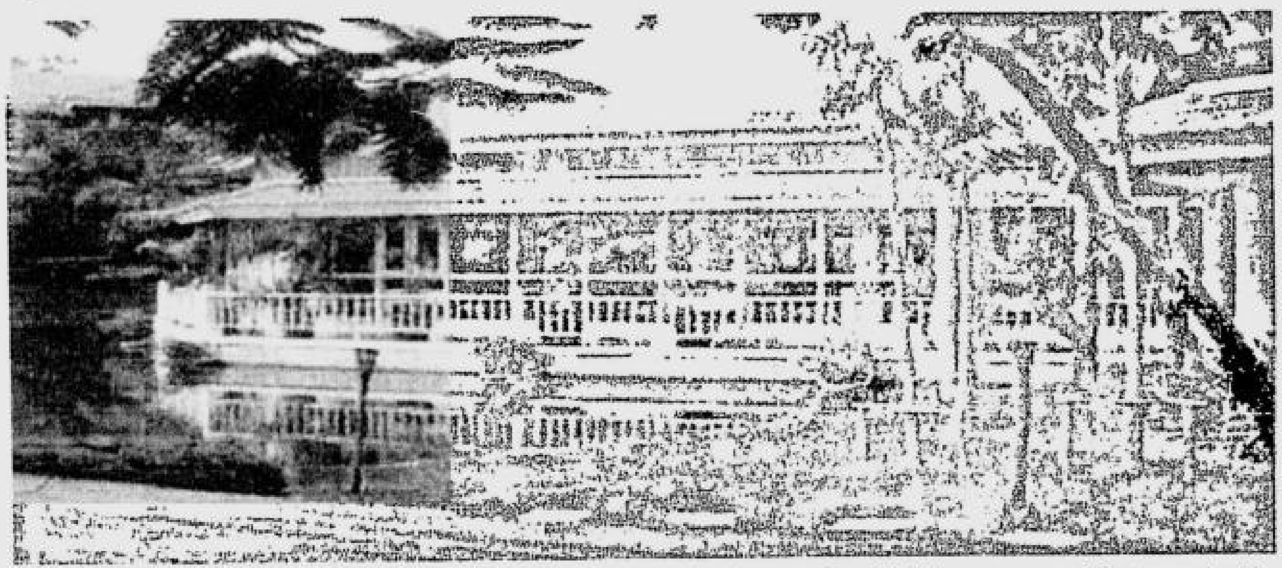
The entire operational system of the building is controlled by the building automation system making it possible to closely monitor its energy needs, giving them a total savings of 20 percent for the year 2004.

First runner-up, Sofitel Royal Angkor Hotel, Kingdom of Cambodia

The hotel is a three-story structure with double walls on the east and west sides for heat gain protection and extensive use of daylighting. Its windows are provided with double-glazed glass further reducing energy cooling loads.

The Royal Court Area, where cultural presentations are made, is built near a small lake with surrounding beautiful and extensive landscaping. The west side of the function rooms is 40-50 percent shaded by trees.

INDONESIA'S Plaza BII Building is this year's winning entry in the retrofitted building category. At the entrance level is a five-story column-free lobby, with a 45-nozzle flag water fountain with landscaping surrounding the open spaces. This provides natural cool air before entering the fully air-conditioned main lobby.



CAMBODIA'S Sofitel Royal Angkor Hotel is the first runner-up in the retrofitted building category. It features double walls on the east and west sides for heat gain protection and extensive use of daylighting.

The building management system contributes to the hotel's energy program by monitoring and controlling the power demand of the building systems, especially the air-conditioning system.

One hundred percent of the wastewater (graywater) is re-used by irrigating the plants.

To prequalify for the 2006 Asean Energy Awards, please call Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243.

(The third and last part of this series will feature the winning entries of the tropical building categories.)

The author is the chair of the Board of Judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com

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Crown Asia marks decade of housing the nation

A DECADE of enhancing urban living through the creation of prime residential communities all over the country from North to South. Ten years of fulfilling lifelong dreams with carefully planned and themed neighborhoods. Conquering another milestone as they received the award for the 2004 Top Real Estate Company of the Year. All these achievements and more will mark the 10th anniversary of Crown Asia.

With aspirations that go beyond creating master-planned communities, Crown Asia is driven by its unending commitment to enhance the lifestyle and living conditions of every homeowner with developments and characteristics that distinguish them from other real estate companies:

Suiting the progressing lifestyle. Backed by a decade of experience in creating thoughtfully planned communities, Crown Asia continues to evolve with the progressing lifestyles and unique needs of its present and future homeowners. While other real estate developers have stayed within the confines of the metropolis, Crown Asia scoured the country from North to South to find untapped locations and turned them into prime residential communities. As business districts and industrial companies grew throughout the country, so did the communities of Crown Asia—from one which is only a stone throw's away from your workplace to another that offers retreat from the aggravations of the metro.

Rosters of neighborhoods

Designs of enduring excellence and recognized value. Careful planning inspired by architectural themes from all over the world are reflected in quality homes that incorporate nature and evoke distinct design influences. Crown Asia proves its title as "Your Home of Choice" with world-class communities to complement every lifestyle, need and taste. Among its roster of neighborhoods are:

- *Presidio.* A 6.8-hectare "city by the bay" strategically located at the boundary of bustling Sucat and thriving city of Taguig, each of the 16 towers of Presidio at Brittany Bay draws influence from San Francisco's neo-Victorian architecture.
- *Cottonwoods.* Over 40 hectares of Antipolo's unspoiled nature and lush landscaping, Cottonwoods offer a wide range of cozy single-detached American country-style models for families desiring of a home with serene surroundings interspersed with nature.
- *Maia Alta.* Sited amid Antipolo's tranquil ambiance, warm Mediterranean colors and architectural influences make the homes in Maia Alta reminiscent of countryside villages in Italy.
- *Citta Italia.* A residential enclave of more than 70 hectares located in the tranquil environment of Imus, Cavite, Citta Italia combines cosmopolitan living with the elegance of Italy.
- *Fortezza.* Dubbed as the "Crown of Laguna," Fortezza boasts of Italian-inspired homes with warm Mediterranean hues and designs intended for comfortable living.

Other projects

Adding to its roster of master-planned communities, Crown Asia is also launching five new projects : Amici in Bacoor, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; Valenza in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; and Woodberry in Antipolo, Rizal.

Completing Crown Asia's collection of prime residential estates are Vivace in Imus, Cavite; Mia Vita at Antipolo, Rizal; Bali in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Beacon Place in Las Piñas; La Brea and Grandwood, both in Quezon City.

Allowing a well-rounded community life. With a keen understanding of individuals who've painstakingly labored for years to ensure their family's future, Crown Asia allows them to experience life's affordable luxuries which can be enjoyed without having to leave the community. Each of community features exclusive amenities and conveniences—from clubhouses, swimming pools, to basketball and tennis courts for a healthy and active way of life while fostering ties with family and neighbors. Commercial areas within the community offer convenience for one's busy life. The already beautiful outdoors are further enhanced with lush landscaping, parks, playgrounds, jogging paths and barbecue pits spread around the communities, while unspoiled nature can be enjoyed along with the splendor of landscaped gardens and rotundas.

Building greater values

Joining Crown Asia in "building greater values into your new homes" are renowned companies and individuals in their respective industries. There is the ingenious architectural design of Recio+Casas and SCA; the unique interiors of top designers Pinky Cruz, Wilmer Lopez and Trina Adapon-Jacinto; and the collaboration of noted landscape artists Robert Gopiao, Benny Velasco and Jojo Lazaro.

Guiding the country's premiere real estate developer for 10 years are the five core values which Crown Asia persistently adheres to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

One can best understand Crown Asia's commitment to enhance the lifestyle and living conditions of every homeowner by visiting its different communities. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown Asia at 718-3400, 718-3402 and 892-8482.

METROPOLITAN TOWER BREAKS GROUND

Philtown Properties, developer of One McKinley Plaza and Fairways Tower, recently held the groundbreaking of its latest project, Metropolitan Tower. A 47-story building rising across Rockwell, Metropolitan Tower is a premier yet affordable condominium that features unique amenities and its very own athletic club. At the groundbreaking are, from left, Philtown SVP for operations Mon Bievenida, Tony Lopez, lawyer Bernardo Virtuocio, MAC (Metropolitan Athletic Club) president Francisco Buencamino, Philtown president and COO Terry Coronel, Carlos Sequia, Hirene Lopez and Philtown SVP for sales and marketing Kit Vergara.

SANTA ROSA BUSINESS PARK

A key part of Greenfield City's master plan

GREENFIELD Development Corp.'s Santa Rosa Business Park continues to shape up as a business zone such that institutional investors and locators continue to choose for their very specific requirements. Laguna's green, peaceful atmosphere and Greenfield City's surrounding residential, commercial and industrial communities steadily attract new businesses and enhance SRBP's position as a key player in the South's economic sphere.

Local and foreign investors and locators have specific needs for a complete business environment, and SRBP provides the much-needed facilities for these businesses to thrive. Among the needs being addressed are advance road and communications infrastructures, security, first-class amenities, accessibility to various facilities, and abundant parks and open spaces for future development. More businesses are becoming aware of this integral part of Greenfield City, and are expanding their horizons accordingly.

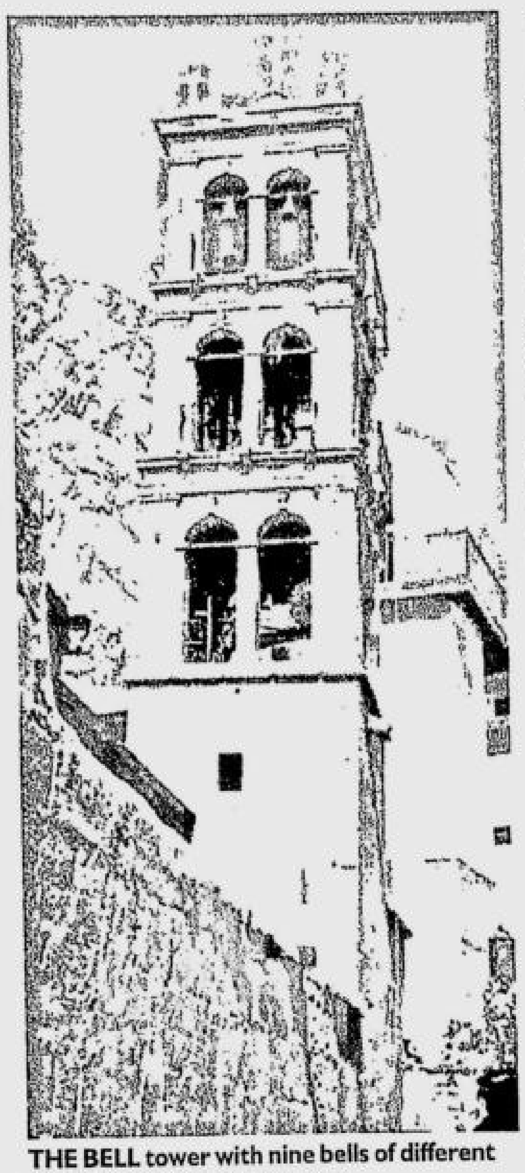
Growth opportunities

The 10-hectare SRBP provides growth opportunities by offering choice lots for office and commercial use. The development is positioned to significantly contribute to the growing economic sphere in the South. The big advantage of SRBP as a site for business and other investments is that it is located within Greenfield City. This provides locators and end-users a complete, one-stop experience while affording the conveniences of living and working in a modern city.

The numerous establishments and institutions manifesting in and around Greenfield City assures that progress will continue for many years ahead, as it is ideally positioned to contribute and benefit from the long-term progress of not only Sta. Rosa, Laguna, but the whole of the Calabarzon area. SRBP is an essential part of this master plan, the significant business component to complete the vision for Greenfield City and ultimately, economic growth of the progressive area just outside Metro Manila.

For inquiries about Santa Rosa Business Park, log on to www.greenfield.com.ph, or call Greenfield at 631-8651 or fax at 635-4501. You can also e-mail marketing@greenfield.com.ph for questions.

Monastery of St. Catherine



THE BELL tower with nine bells of different sizes from the Czars of Russia

IF YOU think Egypt's all pyramids and sphinxes and tombs of pharaohs, think again.

Standing at the foot of Egypt's Mount Sinai is the Orthodox Monastery of St. Catherine, one of the oldest functioning Christian monasteries in the world.

St. Catherine's Monastery was originally ordered to be built by Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, but was actually constructed by order of the Emperor Justinian I between 527 and 565 AD.

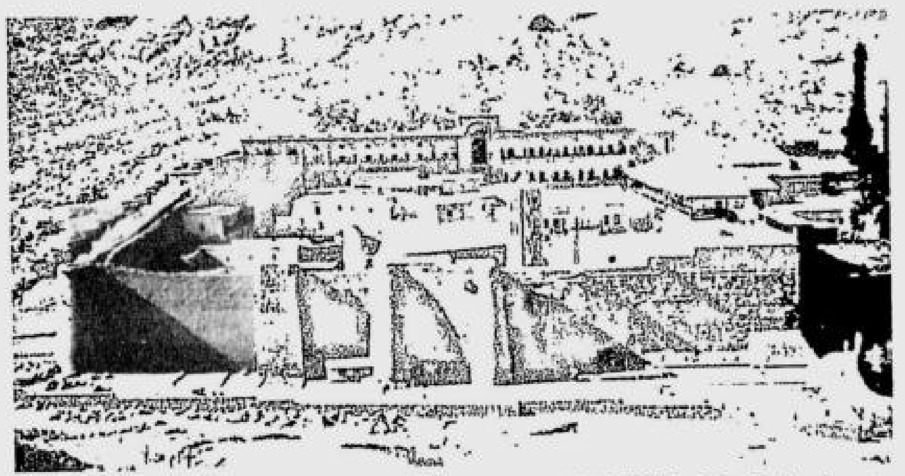
The Byzantine structure was intended to house the bones of St. Catherine whose remains were discovered at the highest summit in Sinai and to protect the numerous monks who had settled around what is believed to be the Burning Bush from which God spoke to Moses.

The monastery's enclosure are made of rectangular hewn blocks of hard granite which stand 40 to 200 feet tall and measure two to three meters thick. The south wall of the monastery faces Mount Sinai and, with its carvings of ancient cross symbols, is the most well preserved.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

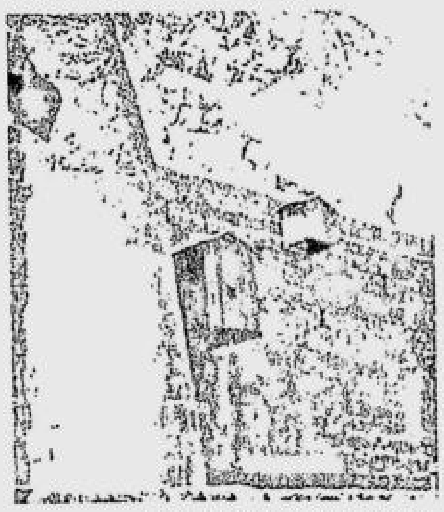
Secured entrance

Entrance to the religious fortress is secured every night by three iron-bound doors. At some points of its history, all of its entrances were sealed up and the sole access to the monastery was through a small pulley-operated "elevator" suspended 30 feet high above the ground.



THE MONASTERY of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai, Egypt

The main church, usually referred to as the Church of St. Catherine, is also of heavy granite blocks and was up since 542 AD. The church's 1,400-year-old main doors are of cedar wood from Lebanon. Twelve other chapels are built within the monastery's walls, the most important of which is the Chapel of the Burning Bush, located behind the sanctuary of the main church. The altar of the chapel stands above the roots of the Burning Bush.



THAT SMALL, brown box is the pulley-operated "elevator" that served as the monastery's only entrance for a period of time.

An immense treasure cache, the monastery holds invaluable and precious works of art such as Arab mosaics, Greek and Russian icons, Western oil paintings, sacerdotal ornaments and reliquaries.

Library

The monastery's library is considered as one of the largest and most important of its kind. It houses a rich collection of documents, one of which was the Codex Sinaiticus, an exceptionally significant 4th century version of the Bible which was borrowed but never returned by a German scholar but is now kept at the British Museum. The monastery also has the second largest collection of illuminated manuscripts after the Vatican.

Also found within the monastery's walls are a small Fatimid mosque that dates back to the 10th or 11th century, dwelling cells for the monks and other structures such as a bell tower with nine bells of different sizes from the Czars of Russia, an olive press, several wells, a hospice and other administration facilities.

Gardens and orchards surround the monastery. There is also a small chapel, the Chapel of St. Tryphon, which serves as an ossuary for the bones of the deceased monks, one of the oldest of which belongs to a hermit named Stephanos, a 6th century monk.

St. Catherine's Monastery is included in Unesco's World Heritage List.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Family-friendly community sets open house tomorrow

PROSPECTIVE homeowners are invited to experience the child- and family-friendly atmosphere of Sonera, the latest phase of Ayala Southvale Village, at an open house tomorrow.

The open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be held right in the subdivision which is a few minutes drive away from the Alabang Town Center. A portion of the "fenceless and free" community will be transformed into a playground with special play equipment, bikes, toys, games and acts from clowns and magicians. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m.

Launched last March, the Sonera concept has been enthusiastically received by the market because of the subdivision's convenient location adjacent to the Ayala Alabang community as well as its unique design.

ITS wide open spaces make Sonera, the newest phase of Ayala Southvale, a natural playground for children and growing families.

More green space

Homes within this Ayala Land development will have fence set-backs of five meters. This provides more green space and a more expansive and comfortable feel. Drawing from a long heritage in subdivision design, Ayala Land planners note that without the solid walls that usually surround their homes, homeowners have more opportunities to interact with neighbors and children are encouraged to play with one another. The end result is a "community that exudes... warmth and friendship," according to a study.

Ties among neighbors will further be reinforced by a spacious Village Green where both adults and youngsters can gather. It includes a social hall and meeting places for adults as well as students doing school projects or enjoying band practice. The centerpiece of the community also includes areas for active play with a swimming pool, and play equipment integrated into the landscape, an adventure path, among other facilities.

Open atmosphere

Sonera's open atmosphere will be complemented by state-of-the-art security equipment. Computer-automated security systems will monitor and control the flow of vehicles and visitors going in and out of the village while the sensitive areas of the community will be protected by infrared sensors and surveillance cameras.

The community has been designed to have an "exhilarating sense of openness." Families are free "to have the entire village as a home," note planners. At the same time, homeowners' safety and peace of mind will be ensured by proactive security systems.

Those interested in visiting Sonera on July 31 may call 841-5520 or 759-4225. Sonera is accessible from Southvale Drive along Daang Hari Road, which intersects with Commerce Avenue and the Alabang-Zapote Road.

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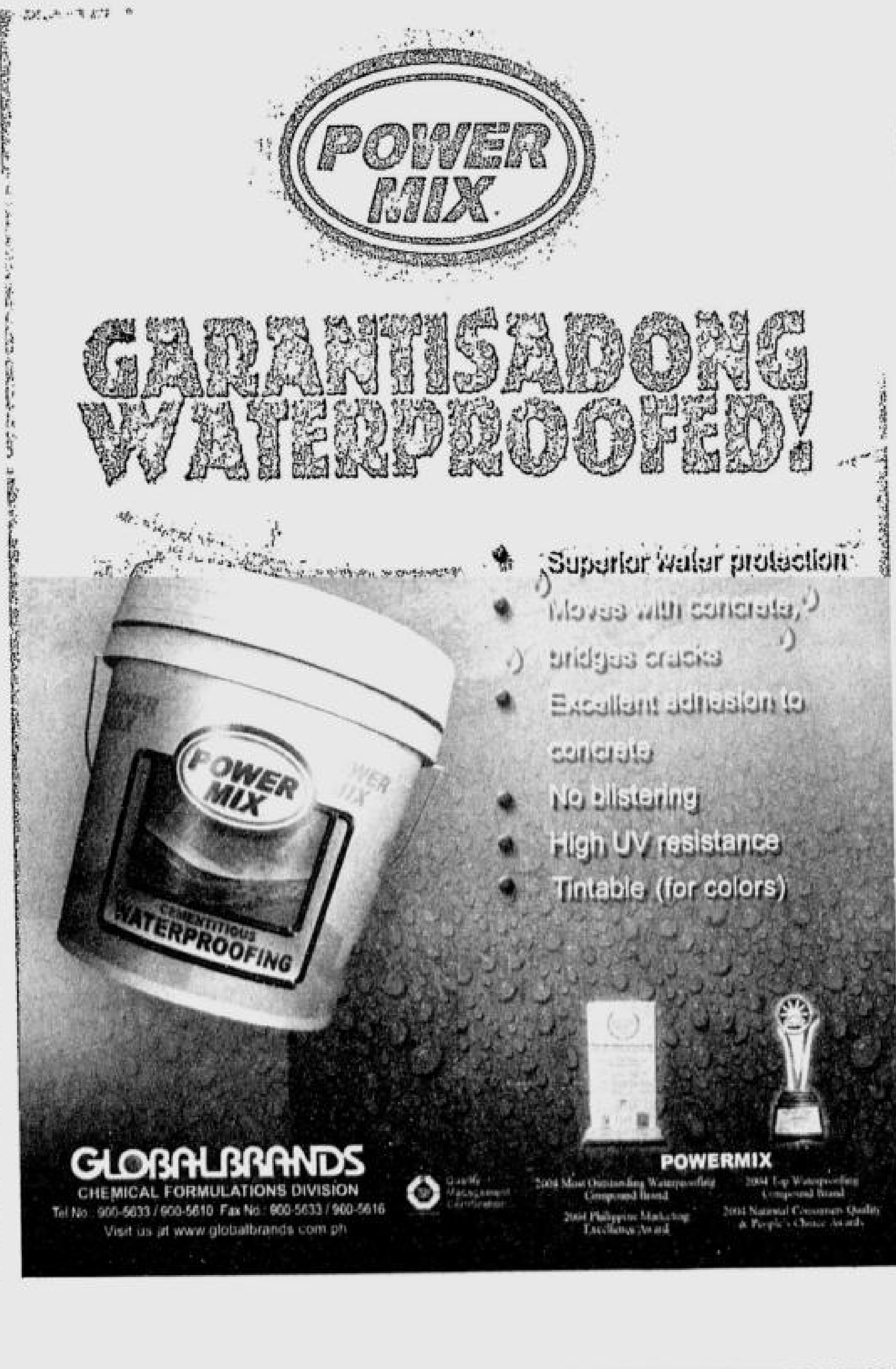
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90% of Rockwell lessees expats

By Tessa R. Salazar

FOR EXPATRIATES or consultants of multinational companies and embassies in the Philippines, it may be wiser to lease than to buy a place to live.

The "subdued" Rockwell center in Makati City—noted for its self-contained community with "manageable" human traffic—fills the housing requirements of expatriates in the country.

Its residential leasing market has expatriates occupying 90 percent of available units for rent.

Primary considerations

Residential leasing is the rental of available units at any of the five Rockwell residential towers.

Mona Manalang Narciso, leasing team head and senior sales manager, cites that the expats' primary considerations are security, privacy and convenience. Malls and clubs are just a stone's throw away from where they live.

"We deal directly with multinational companies and embassies which have housing requirements for their expatriates. We seldom have Filipino clients for leasing. Normally, Filipinos buy units as investments," she said.

The first residential tower on Rockwell's east side—Manansala—has units ranging from 36 to 116 square meters and offer a rental rate of P35,000 to P110,000 per month.

Narciso said that during an actual visit, the leasing team would show and explain the features of the room, show the tower's library, function rooms, pool, gym, spa, garden, walkway connecting all towers, mail room and the tunnel at the basement.

She added that Filipino residents would be better off buying a unit than leasing it because they can utilize it as an investment. Filipino owners lease out their units to expatriates or clients and demand competitive rates.

MANANSALA model unit

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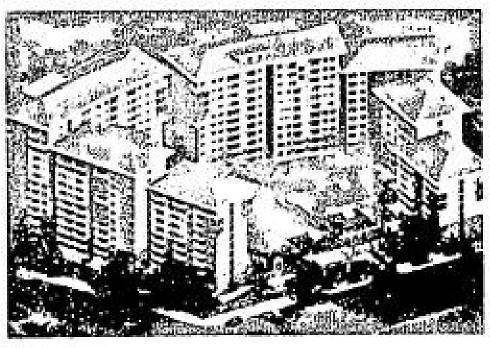
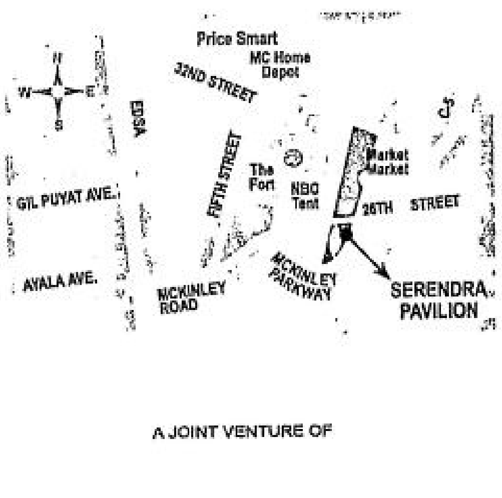


With Serendra's sprawling greenery located just a few minutes away from the heart of the country's premiere business district, respite from the workday will now always be within easy reach. Family members can now come home fresh and ready for some good old family time. And with the finest schools, hospitals, and shopping malls in the country just a short drive away, Serendra offers a proposition that's just hard to beat. Now, comfort and convenience are no longer mutually exclusive concepts. At Serendra, these two ideas have finally found a home. And hopefully, so will you.

Email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph
or visit www.serendra.com
Model units are available for viewing at the Serendra Pavilion, 26th Street, Bonifacio Global City, everyday from 9am to 8pm.
HLURB LTS Nos: 10412, 10464 and 10482



With almost two-thirds of its 12 hectares dedicated to greenery and with a location just a few minutes from the heart of the central business district of Makati, Serendra is a refreshing residential proposition to refined urbanites who simply refuse to choose between comfort and accessibility.

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(Image shown is merely a creative representation, and not an actual depiction of Serendra.)

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Super!Countdown
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sauna

State of the Super! address page D1

Marissa Andal, high in fiber page C4

State of the nightlife address page D2

Kat Holigores teaches you to lighten up page C2

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: VICTOR CONSUNJI
Makeup: XENG ZULUETA
Location: SOMMERSET SALCEDO
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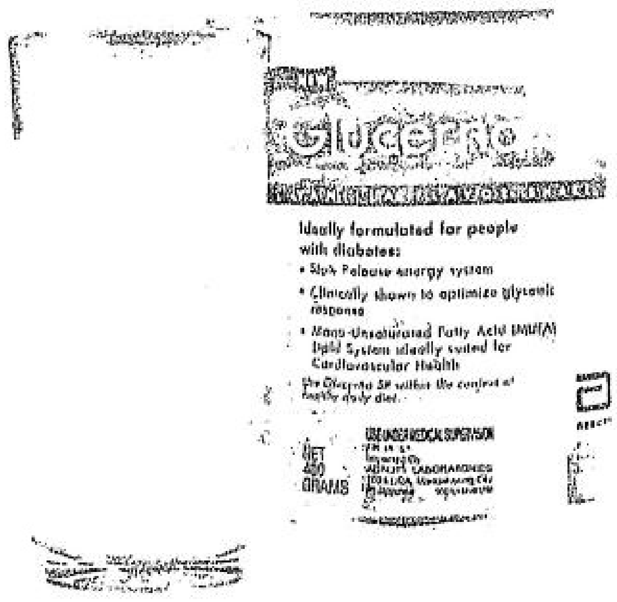
Better glucose and hunger control for diabetics.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Lighten up

Stop it, take a deep breath, cuss if you need to, then rise above it.

By Katrina A. Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

WEATHER changes also seem to bring about mood changes. Actually, anything seems to be a perfect excuse for a little moodiness. Brooding, self-pity, some angst, reminders of unresolved issues poke their needly little fingers into our souls every so often. All of a sudden you wake up and you're just not good enough, what you're doing is not fulfilling enough, the people that surround you are jerks, your family is suffocating you… the list goes on. Bad hair day (for women), no hair day (for men), you name it. The slightest thing can cause mega irritation, even the "comic" faux ending in the CSI Finale was enough to get your eyes rolling. (At least it did mine). So, now that you're carrying the weight of YOUR world on your shoulders what is there to do?

Lighten up, yes really. From Hello Diether to Hello Garci jokes and ring tones you've probably laughed as much as you could and faked your smile as an older relative or your boss went through (the millionth time) his version or her version of the Hellos. Watching the news is not an option and on the music channels you can swear that the artist of the month was the same one last month. What is the world coming to? Is it just you who notices how lame everything is? Wow, *pare* dude, chill. We are all allowed our days of being angry or rebels without causes but if we don't give ourselves a time limit to feel and act like rabid dogs, then we're pretty much on a long lonely road to bitterness and (gasp) the cloud surrounding every silver lining.

Surrender

To make light of every situation is done with practice and of course acceptance. Surrender to the fact that there are situations in life that are just not in your control… in fact there will be many, and if you allow them to affect you, then you're in for a lifelong pounding. The only thing that you can really control is your own REACTION to what is in front of you. How much are you going to take before you break? Or are you simply just going to look this horrid, irritating situation in the face, and chuckle politely to yourself before stepping aside and moving on? Have you ever heard the expression "*mabigat kasama*" and no, that doesn't translate as "He ain't heavy he's my brother" but it means that Mr. Mabigat is this close to being an emotional vampire. Trouble is, you might look in the mirror one day and see no reflection, so, lighten up.

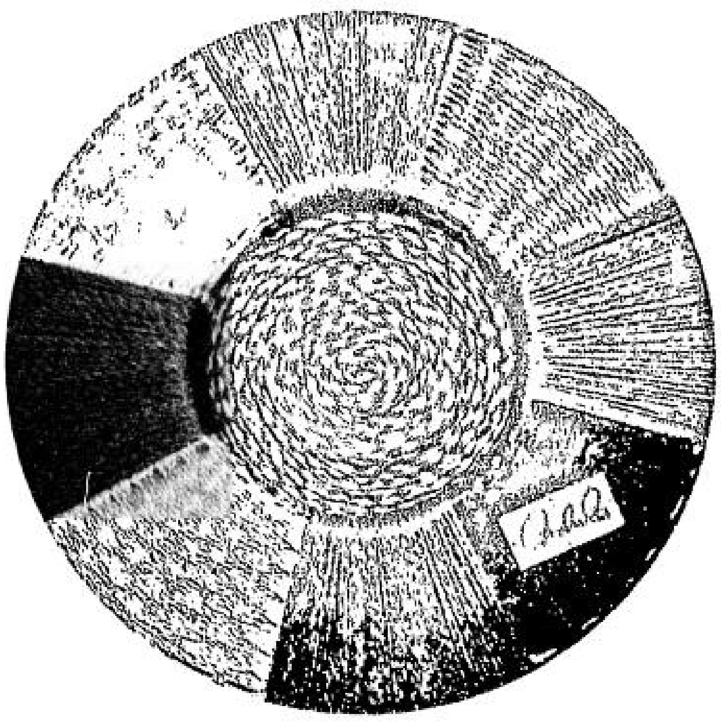
A lot of things that are hurtful, frustrating, even abusive in nature are not necessarily meant with YOU in mind. In other words, when your father or mother started to date again, it was not meant to HURT you. If your ex has decided to go out with someone possessing "*buhaghag*" free hair and the body of a Sports Illustrated hussy it's not life's way of shoving poker hot barbs straight into your heart. Perhaps, it is just a little nudge to see exactly what issues you still are dealing with about your own self image or attitude toward life. (Thereby causing your hair to stand on end and your frown lines to increase in number). Stop it, take a deep breath, cuss if you need to, then rise above it.

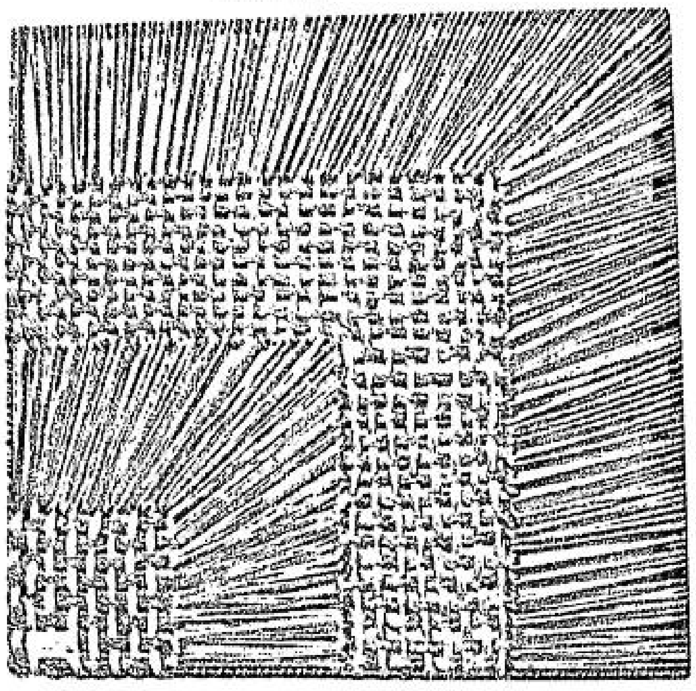
Laugh out loud

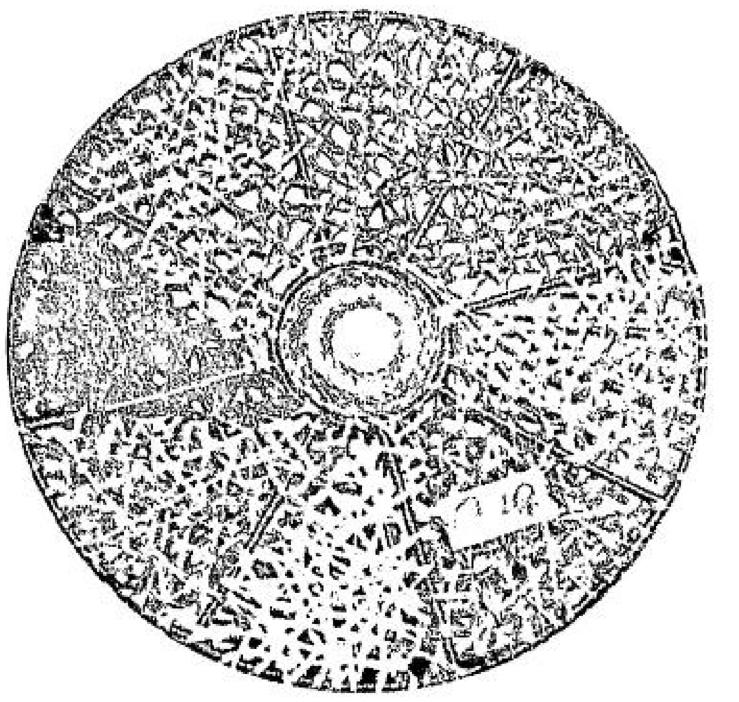
Laugh out loud or cry wildly for a full hour. Then stop. Put a timer on your hysterics, because you CAN turn the on and off switch when dealing with your emotions. If you've reached a boiling point, go explode… then enough. Don't drag it with you for another day. Go to the gym, hit a punching bag, dance your heart out at a club, write down as you wail your every thought and emotion, run a mile, take a long drive out of town, sit in front of your favorite piece of art, watch your corniest, slapstick movie or sitcom, call up someone you haven't spoken to long distance… have a healthy outlet, then live your life again on a fresh mood start. It's not as difficult as it seems. Life is indeed so generous that it always provides us options, we just have to look past the rage to see them. The decision to do so may be a little more difficult. Some choose to wallow in misery, some choose to finally swim for air.

Brighter outlook

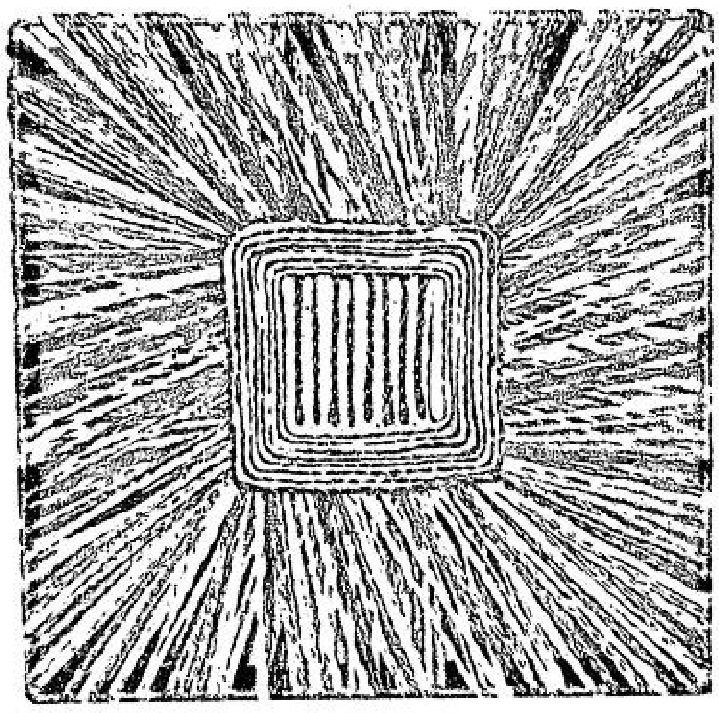
Feeling better? Hopefully yes, or perhaps not yet. I say yet, because I honestly believe we all have been given the capabilities to have a brighter outlook. That these eyes that squint in anger are the same ones that can spot beauty in everything, the same ears that hear bad news are the same ones which hear the perfect song playing on the radio, and the mouths that roar out curses and expletives are the same ones which can emanate a message of peace and love. We are all vessels, it's what we decide to bring as cargo that makes all the difference if we are to sink or stay afloat in life. Bon voyage.

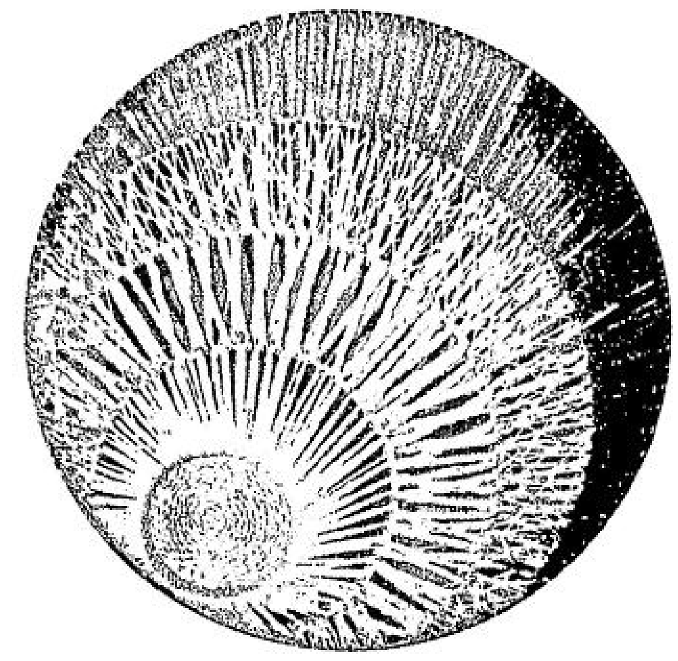


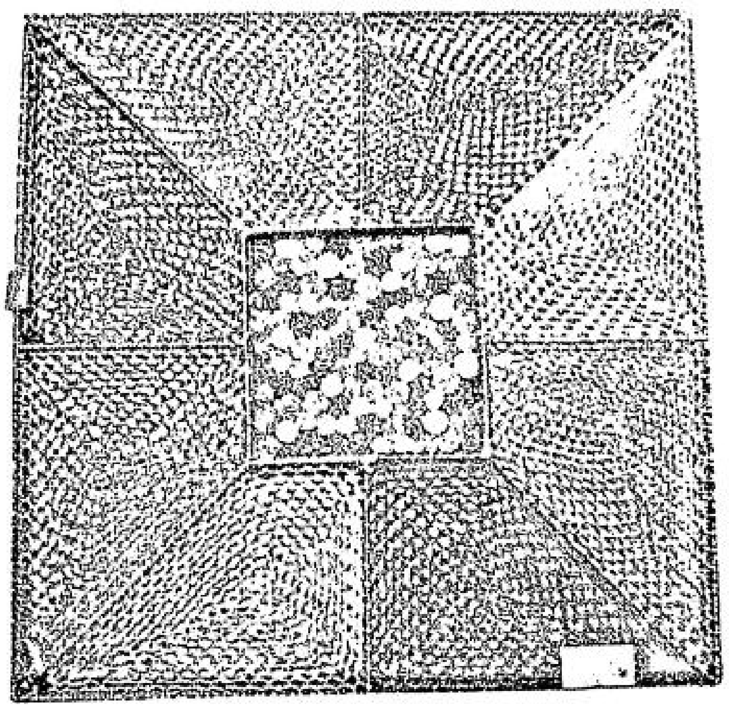




'Everything I do is connected'

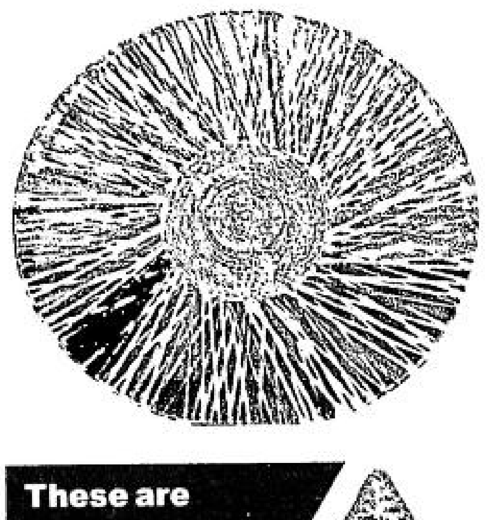




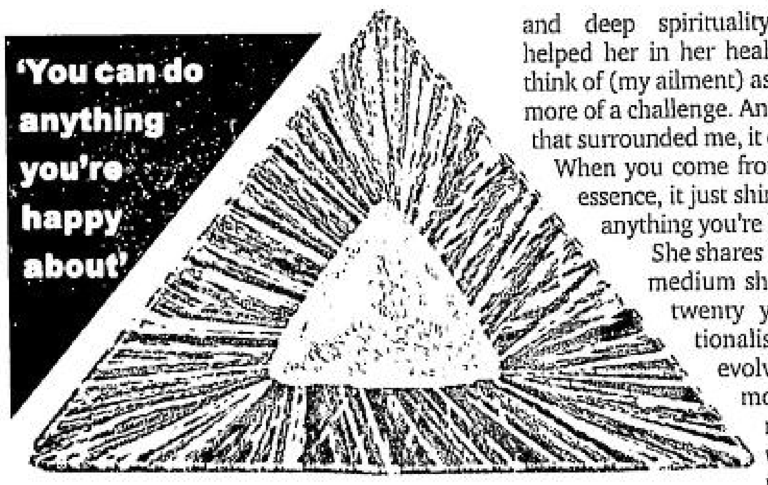


High in fiber

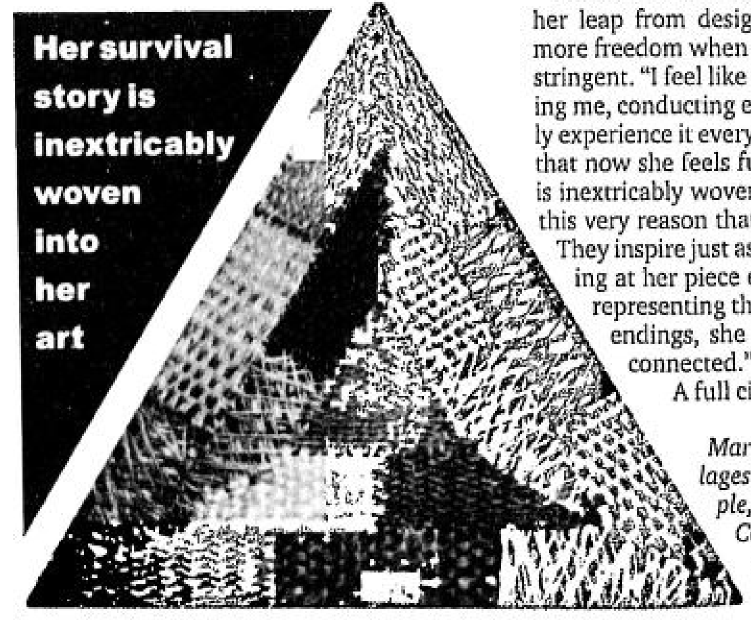
From page C4



These are Marissa Andal's expressions of a new life



'You can do anything you're happy about'



Her survival story is inextricably woven into her art

sions of a new life after a near fatal brain tumor.

"There's always a beautiful blessing after an intense storm," Marissa says enthusiastically. A longtime designer, Marissa is the force majeure behind Andamar Inc., a company that exports Philippine-crafted products all over the world, from bags and boxes to finely crafted houseware. She has designed for such giant retailers as Nine West, Esprit, Benetton, Banana Republic and Tommy Hilfiger. For some time, Marissa was tagged fondly as "the bag lady" as she enjoyed a little claim to fame in the form of a woven bag which Jennifer Lopez paraded in the film, "Maid in Manhattan." Her celebrated designs demanded her to travel frequently to Europe and the US, and shuttle back and forth between Manila and her hometown of Legazpi in Bicol.

Her globetrotting lifestyle came to an unexpected turn, however, when she was diagnosed with a congenital brain tumor, which necessitated two difficult surgeries for her survival. During the two months of her bleary recuperation stage, she started seeing the kaleidoscopic visions. "The tumor was in my pineal area, in my third eye. It made me more creative." Those images leapt from her mind's eye into her exquisite fiber wall art, as well as lamps, baskets, placemats and carpets which she worked on nonstop for two straight weeks back in Bicol. Her Fiber Art Collages will soon be displayed in exhibits in Hong Kong, Italy and Germany.

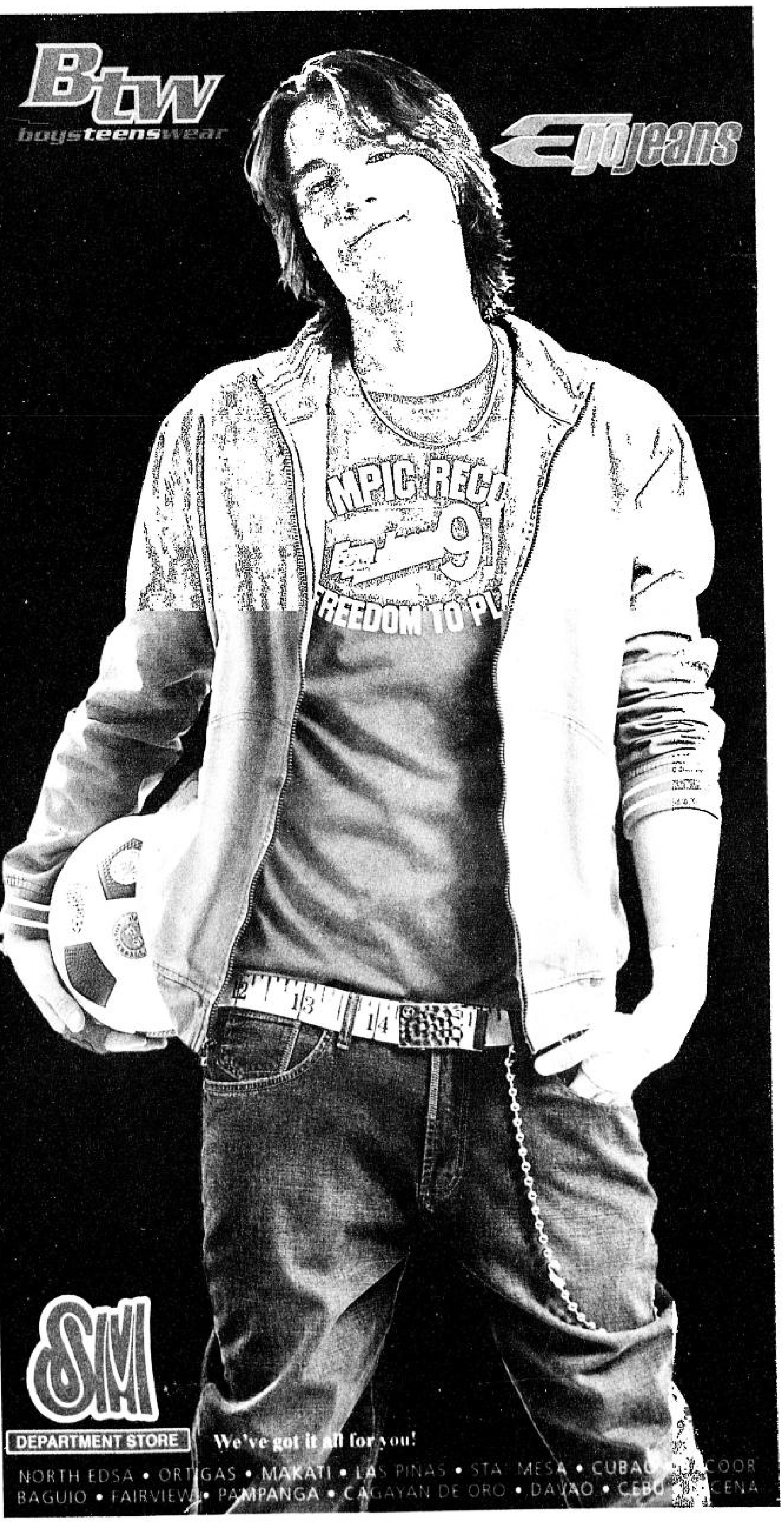
Marissa has always maintained an infectious, positive energy and deep spirituality which undoubtedly helped her in her healing process. "I did not think of (my ailment) as a suffering at all. It was more of a challenge. And because of all the love that surrounded me, it didn't feel like suffering. When you come from your truth, from this essence, it just shines through. You can do anything you're happy about."

She shares that her work, using the medium she has mastered in over twenty years, satisfies the nationalistic part in her. "We are evolving, we are becoming more solidified. We don't need to copy anyone, we can go back to our roots and still succeed."

Marissa admits that she is vastly enjoying her leap from designer to artist, as there is more freedom when the parameters are not as stringent. "I feel like there's a hand that's moving me, conducting everything I do. I personally experience it everyday." The big difference is that now she feels fulfilled. Her survival story is inextricably woven into her art, and it is for this very reason that her designs help people. They inspire just as they are inspired. Gesturing at her piece entitled "Life," with colors representing the cycles of beginnings and endings, she adds, "Everything I do is connected."

A full circle indeed.

Marissa Andal's Fiber Art Collages can be viewed at Pineapple, House of Laurel and Palms Country Club, and at a weeklong exhibit at Metro-Gaizano, Legazpi, Bicol.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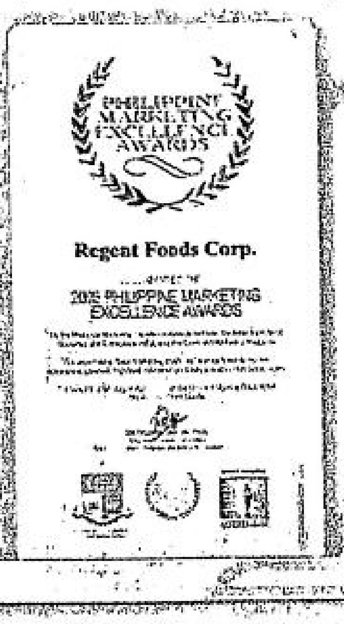
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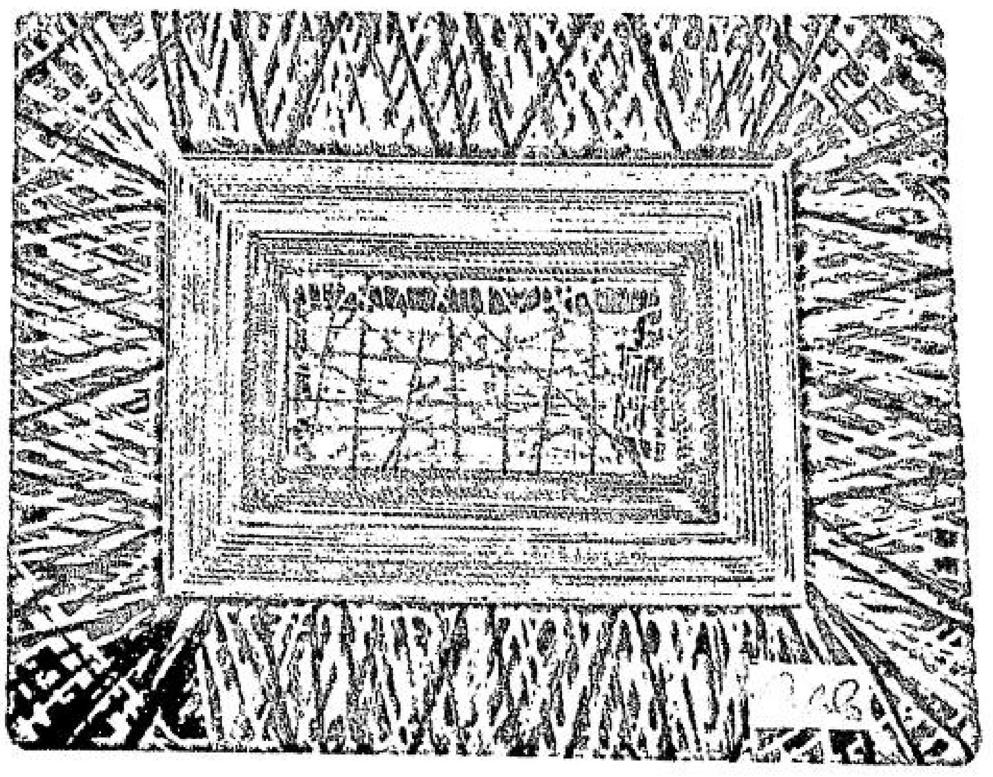


MARISSA ANDAL

High in fiber

An artist's tale with a twist

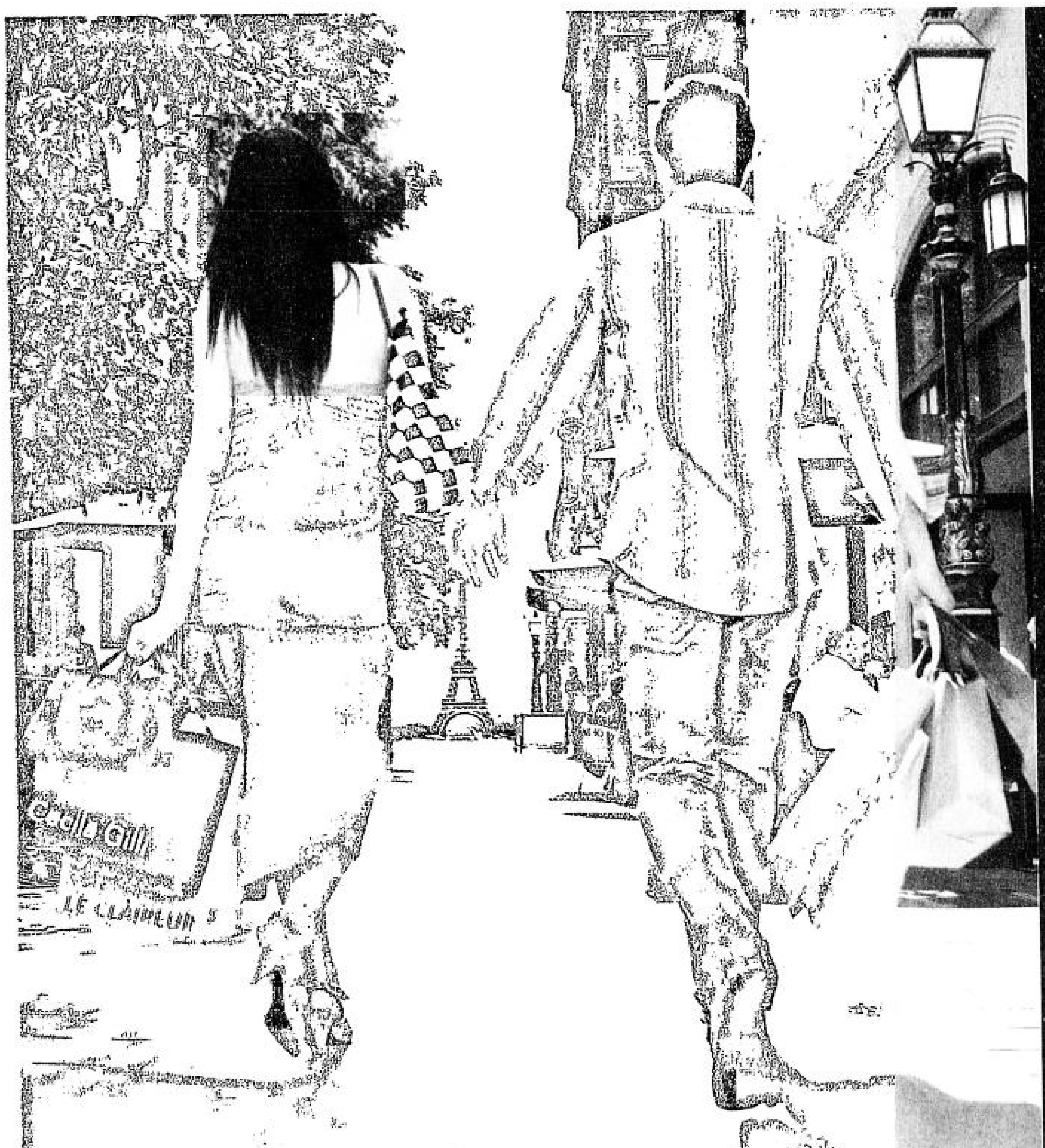
By Tals Diaz
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE FIRST thing she saw was a circle. Inside it was a woman, a mother in a womb, swathed within an interplay of intense colors. It was this vision in between the waking and dream world that propelled designer Marissa Andal to tune into the creative force and embark on a new journey in the realm of art.

She calls her creations Fiber Art Collage. A masterful synthesis of colors woven fluidly into each other, as if set into motion, reminiscent of the graceful patterns that sunlight sprinkles over the sea at dusk. Her unique creations reflect the tropical Bicol landscape, using indigenous dyed abaca and assorted fiber strips in tailoring her masterpieces. Yet similar to the twists at unexpected corners in her designs, there is a twist to this artist's tale. They are her expres-

HIGH/ C3

MARISSA ANDAL, THE ARTIST. Images leapt from her mind's eye into her exquisite fiber wall art. TALS DIAZ



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State of the Super! Address

It's biased!

It lacks meaning!

It won't affect the world in any way!

It's a Sosa!

By Pepe Diokno

LADIES and gentlemen!
(Applause)
Good day!
(Applause)
I haven't even started.
(Applause)
Please stop.
(Applause)
A—
(Applause)
E—
(Applause)
I—
(Applause)

Every Saturday, we meet as you unfold the pages of this paper to celebrate style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment, and recreation—and take stock of our nation: the socialites and their condition; the socialites and their performance; the socialites and their well-being… and stuff.

(Applause)

But ours is an audience divided; the story of our audience is a tale of two audiences; almost, as it were, two audiences under the same name… which is um, "audience."

(Applause)

You weren't supposed to applaud that.

(Ohh…)

One is an audience who is amused by the antics, and entertained by the ramblings of this wonderful section—a section that is not afraid to speak in whatever way it wishes to. The other is an audience that has been taken over by radioactive hobbits, and with their boxed-up views of society, impose on others their view of what "writing" is supposed to be, who has the right to do it, and what is "proper" to write about.

The first audience will be thrilled to note the wonderful progress Super! has made within the year in areas our citizens are concerned with the most.

Pam Pastor, minister of the Department of Social Welfare, has provided housing and healthcare for 30 thousand Havaianas to date. By the end of the year, she plans to do the same for 777 thousand more pairs. She will then use government money to plaster her name and pictures all over the place—because she can.

(Applause. Pam-my! Pam-my! Pam-my!)

Gino de la Paz continues to anger mothers across the country. In fact, Angry Mother Letters have increased a remarkable 6%. All thanks to the words, "shit," and "vagina." His thesis entitled, "Similarities in Genetic Structure Between Paris and Nicole and Beavis and Butthead," has been called a contribution to science—by no less than his mother.

(Applause. O-ha! O-ha!)

Tals Diaz continues to contribute to the struggle of drivers across the metro. It is OK to run over cones and pink fences which shouldn't be on the friggin' avenue in the first place. Her advocacy, Lost people, has caught the attention of many—including, among others, people that are lost.

(Standing ovation!)

This section has brought into your homes real images of grit and the human condition through David Milan's weekly Superfriends!, with hopes that these pictures inspire you to be of service under the motto, "It is not what Super! can do for you, but what you can do for Super!" Also, if you see any of the children you've seen on Superfriends!, you may call our new hotline, 666.

Chuck Dy, the Man About Town, has been busy going from barrio to barrio, and barangay to barangay—bringing our service away from the metro, and to the doorsteps of our people. He conducts seminars on life, and love, and Genghis Khan—the primary worries of our youth, who constitute nearly half of our population, you know.

(Standing ovation!)

James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno have continued the fight against the scum of our nation—Joel Lamangan and Mother Lily, who together, make up just one scum. They've put their lives on the line delving into the depths of society to bring you, our audience, an important, searing picture of life in high society.

(Semi-standing ovation! *Sumasakit na po tuhod ko po!*)

Meanwhile, creative director Tim Yap continues to deliver key on issues—such as **KC Concepcion**'s new play, and **Tessa Prieto-Valdes' Baby Athena**. As the founding father of this section, an effigy is currently being erected in his honor, which will inspire gener-

STATE/D4

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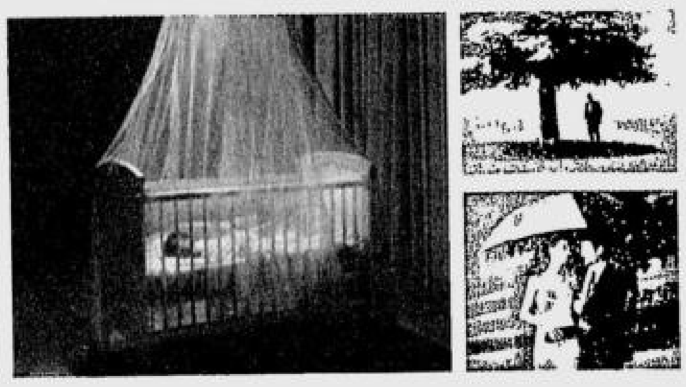
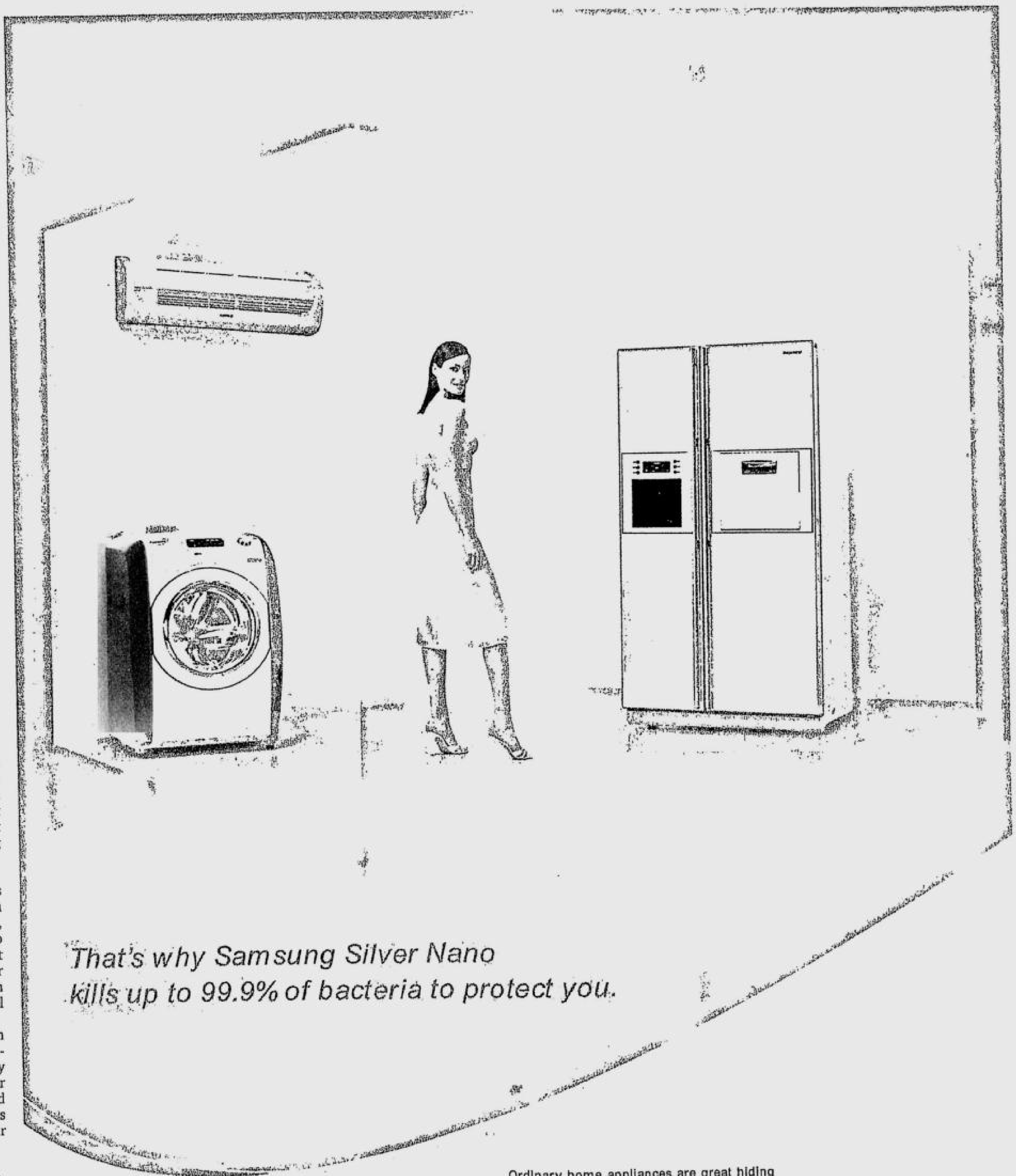


Life Needs a Protected Zone.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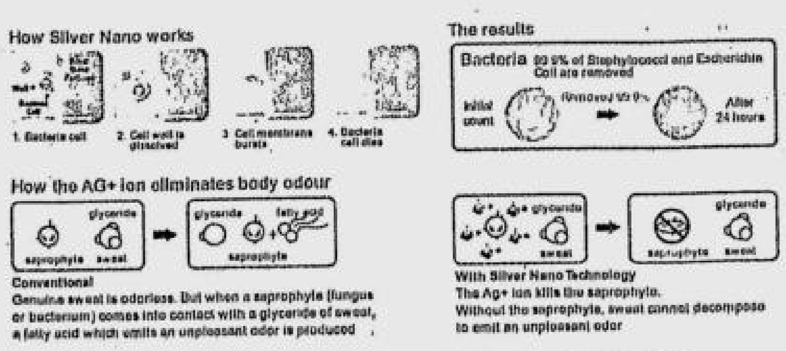

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Super

ONE MORE TIME. DJ Bombi Balquiedra drops the bomb at Embassy Super Club

IN THE MOOD? Dial M for Maui Taylor

THE SIMPLE PARTY LIFE. Alex Gutierrez and Tisha Silang

State of the nightlife address

Tim Yap

I WON'T lie and pretend that I was able to attend the President's State of the Nation Address. So I did the next best thing—I wrote my own.

From what I've heard, GMA's State of the Nation Address was more the state of her administration, so my state of the nightlife address won't exactly be about the state of the nation as well.

Partyphiles always complain that life wasn't like how it was "back in the day." But that's how old people think. Young movers these days, instead of complaining about 'back in the day,' they just bring it back themselves. Thus, this whole backlash towards retro—with the '90s being the new '80s (to some, the '80s have never left).

Ivan Zalameda, partying like it's 1999, chose to focus the spotlight on the Filipino DJ and spearheaded the "99 movement" with the DJs in Puma and the crowd spilling with Smirnoff Ice, Hennessy and Rene Barbier Wines. "They were enjoying the best of both worlds—the great music and carefree vibe of the late 90s and the less pretentious face of the present," as he danced to the anthems of the last decade. The pictures on this page prove it all.

The Big Fish crew is still active with its importation of foreign DJ talents, with local DJs playing side by side with world renowned spinning stars, keeping the industry throbbing with excitement.

New bars like Mezze, Caffe Maestro, Luce and other "anti-it" spots have sprung out, giving the metro more nocturnal choices. Even free publications focusing on nightlife, like 24/7, Loop and Circuit lead to providing the partying public with better information on where to go and what to do and how to do it.

Channeling my inner Shakespeare, let me express that no matter how much I love the nightlife, partying can be such sweet sorrow. Here are some random pre-slumber snippets that will guide you on your nocturnal journey.

1. Cell phones are the new wallets.

There is a cell phone theft syndicate going around the bars and clubs with the sole purpose of snatching that mobile from your pocket. No, the guy from last night wasn't feeling you up. Some of these bandits have been caught in some clubs and were already arrested. But there are still a lot out there. Club owners are beefing up security measures to nip this problem at the bud. To these robbers, wallets (which sometimes contain nothing) are less valuable. Mobile phones fetch thousands of pesos in the black market. So, beware and aware. As Paris Hilton said in the OC, Camera phones are the new autographs.

2. 1 a.m. is the new midnight.

Parents, relax. Nowanights, kids don't leave their homes till before midnight, which leaves them just a few hours of chillaxing with their buddies. Don't think they love you any less just because they come home late. This isn't exactly the Cinderella generation.

3. Thou shalt respect the bouncers.

They're just doing their job. Never take it as a personal jab to your ego if they all of a sudden do not remember your face despite your P500 tip. And at least for Embassy Super Club, thou shalt bow down to Aslie Aslanian, the door bitch. Obey the law. Obey Aslie.

4. Wednesday is the new Friday.

Saturdays have turned too hoi polloi. Not that I shun the sight of too many clubbers, but you still want to be able to talk to your mates when you're out. You don't want to have to resort to putting KY Jelly just to get through the dance floor.

STAR OF ALL NIGHTS. Aubrey Miles at VIP

5. Extra Joss with beer is the new vodka Red Bull.

With everyone leading a packed lifestyle, sometimes days can be long, and nights, even longer. Times like these, you need more than just a Juicy. You need the extra energy that Extra Joss can provide. A good alternative is Revicon's I-On drink. It tastes like Mountain Dew—yum with a yay!

6. Check your temper at the door.

You're supposed to be clubbing, not clubbing someone to death. And again at least within Embassy, let me state this fact—if at any time you start a fight, you will be banned. For life. No visas for violence.

7. There is no such thing as a pretty drunk.

If you plan to drink, make sure you can hold your liquor. Its really not sexy seeing people passed out on their puke. And NEVER drink and drive. For other substances, please consult your doctor.

8. Last but not the least, always remember that there is always tomorrow.

Some of us tend to get lost in the moment and choose to fully indulge, forgetting that tomorrow is another day. While I pass no judgement to people who want to have fun, what I want to advocate is this—party responsibly. Because that's the only way to keep the party going.

HAVE a slice of Rachel Piazza

BECAUSE YOU GOTTA HAVE [illegible]

TAYLOR MADE FOR EACH OTHER. [illegible]

[illegible]

MANILA FLAVOR. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

BACK TO THE FUTURE. [illegible]

IN HIGH SPIRITS. [illegible]

A VIEW TO A [illegible]

'Once' more, with feelings!

AFTER a critically-acclaimed and highly successful first run last summer, and an Aliw Award nomination for Best Musical Production, Actor's Actors Inc.'s (AAI), in partnership with Little Boy Productions (Cebu), brings back the well-loved Broadway musical "Once On This Island" to RCBC Theater on Aug. 5-14.

Coming together onstage once again is AAI's dream cast for "Once On This Island" — Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Bituin Escalante, Jett Pangan, Michael de Mesa, Jeffrey Hidalgo, May Bayot, Michael Williams, Radha, Bodjie Pascua, Kristian Lei, Raki Vega, Cathy Azanza and Gala Sanchez.

The overwhelming support seen during the first run has inspired AAI to re-stage additional shows for those who haven't watched yet. "Once On This Island" was such a hit that out-of-town tours are also being arranged such as the show in SM City Cebu on Aug. 27. Regional tours in Singapore and Malaysia are also being arranged.

THE GODS must be crazy—[illegible] why we [illegible] them!

"Once On This Island" returns to RCBC Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City on Aug. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 with 8 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. shows on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are priced at P300, P500, P800, P1,000 and P1,500.

Call 891-9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph. Interested showbuyers can contact Hendri Go at 0917-8155794 or hendrison.go@gmail.com.

Who's the Moss?

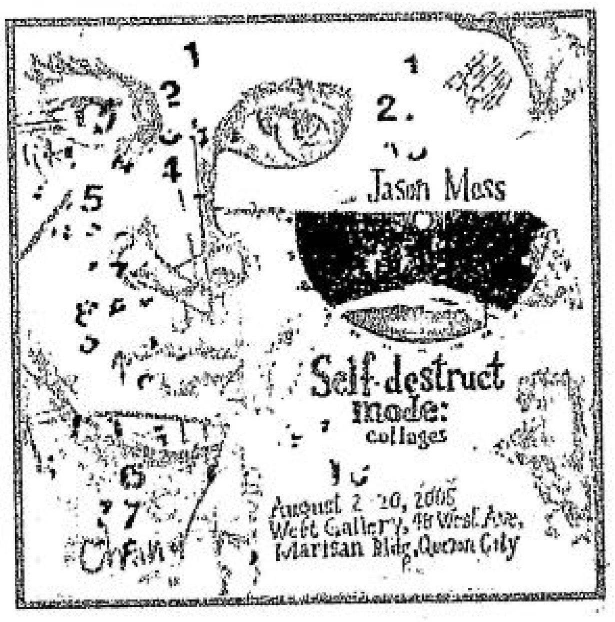
NO DOUBT about it, Jason Moss' Super artworks have gotten you intrigued.

Now you have two chances to meet the artist behind the canvas.

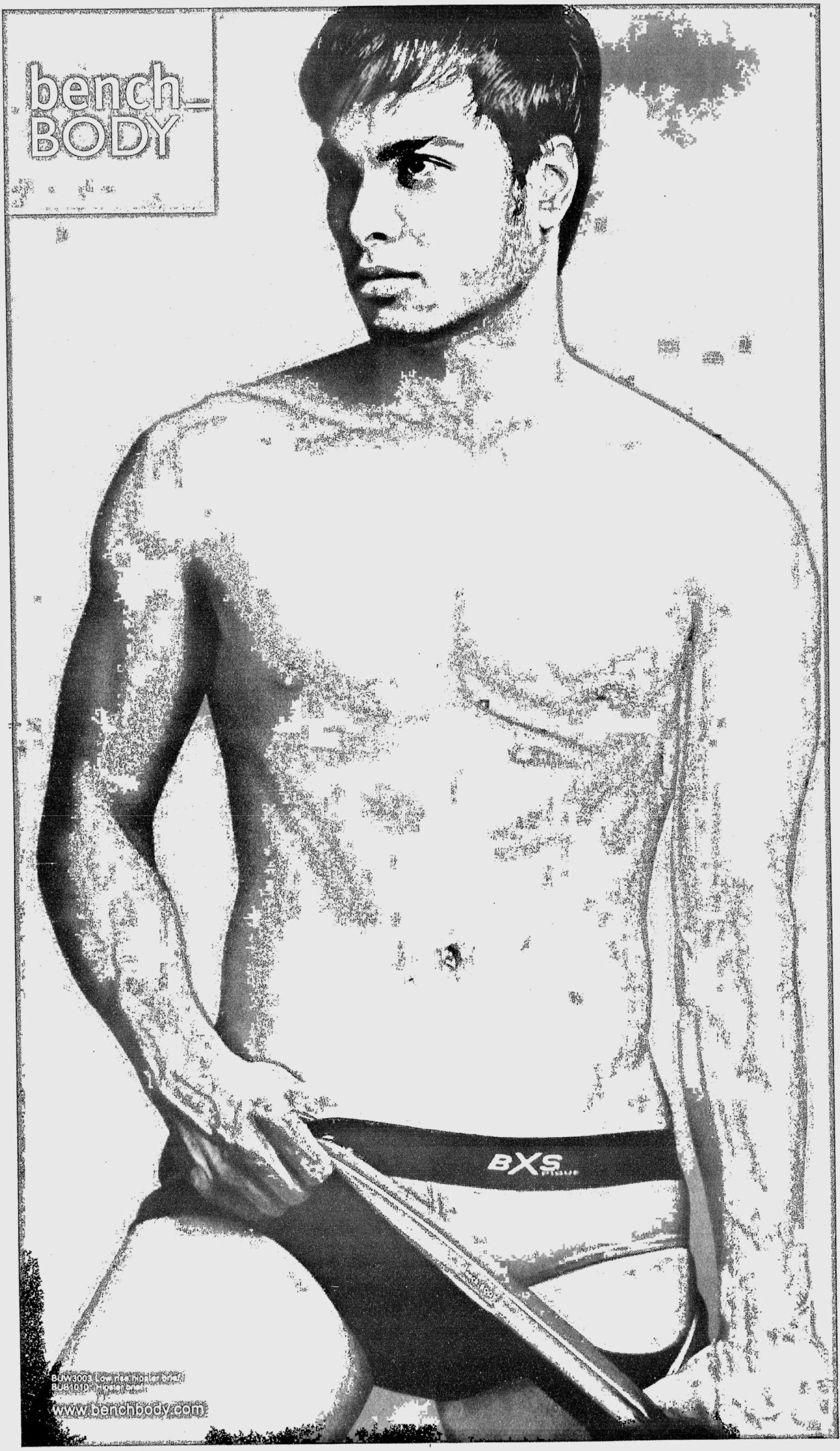
Check out the Onib Olmedo Tribute at Galerie Joaquin from July 26 to August 9. The exhibit will feature Manila's hottest artists including Jason Moss.

And if you want to see Jason go solo, check out his 14th one man show, "Self-destruct Mode: Collages" from August 2 to 20 at the West Gallery (48 West Avenue, Marisan Bldg, Quezon City).

Super will see you there.



Jason Moss
Self-destruct mode: collages
August 2 - 20, 2005 West Gallery, 48 West Ave. Marisan Bldg, Quezon City



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State of the Super! Address

From page D1

ations to come. To save costs, the effigy is as tall as a Sto. Nino.

(Applause)

Indeed, Super! has been on track with it's 22-point agenda. And indeed, we share in the story of a society that is on the verge of take-off. And indeed, nobody uses the word "indeed" in normal conversation. Analysts need only to look at our stock market, and even the peso-dollar exchange rate, to sense the strong anticipation of significant improvements which we are sure Super!, with all its meaning and importance, has direct relation to.

But the improvements above are met with great opposition from the second audience, which we call... "Audience Number Two." This "Number Two" is brown, well-rounded (in small circular blobs), smelly, and not that tasty—but they contribute to this section in the greatest way. They are our vanguards—and with even the slightest show of the region above the genitals and the belly button, work the phones, their mobiles, and even the net, to express their dissatisfaction—almost, as if they have nothing else to do. We thank you... for recognizing the importance of this section and how much it contributes to the formation of society, and for dedicating your lives to the most important of causes.

We thank you... for recognizing the importance of this section and how much it contributes to the formation of society, and for dedicating your lives to the most important of causes

The commitment of Super! is to take society out of the box it puts itself in. To define and redefine. To elicit reaction—to anger or please, make you gasp or faint. It is the goal of this section to tackle the untackleable, (and make words of things that are not) and to show what others say cannot be shown. You will see things you're unaccustomed to.

To "Audience Number Two," however, things they're not accustomed to fall under seven categories: 1) Obscene 2) Blasphemous 3) The handwork of the Devil 4) Bad 5) Crap 6) Un-journalistic 7) Elitist Shit. This view of our culture, as do's and don'ts, rights and wrongs, and formulas, is the behavior of those in a box. It's the behavior that we want to eradicate!

Let's call on the Lord to make us worthy of His healing our land

(Standing ovation! Woof! Woof! Woof!)

Thus, with investors both here and abroad in mind, we invite you all to join us in sending them a strong message: We will not waver in our commitment to break mindsets and medieval chastity belts. Our society will be a better one when it is filled with an air of openness, not of self-righteousness; of frankness, not hypocrisy (Come on, mothers, how can you cringe at the word "vagina?")—a society where people realize that no one is ever going to learn in an environment that is censored and stifled.

The other message to send is that we will address the burden that the second audience places upon a society that is on the verge of take-off. I refer to the story of how "Audience Number Two" has now become a hindrance to our national progress.

We must first address such questions as, "What is wrong with tits and ass? What is suggestive about women in bikinis? Or men in bikinis? Will images of these people dement teens across the nation?" "Will printing certain words cause children to degenerate? Will the mention of 'vagina' cause preteens to go out and look for virgins?" "What does 'meaning' mean, and who decides what has it?"

The need to even ask these questions stems from the fundamental problem of society—People, you have something up your ass. The answer to this problem is simple. Take a crap.

It is time to start the great debate... on Taking A Crap!

(Woof! Woof! Woof! Growl...)

We shall work with Audience Number 2, civil society groups and local government executives who are convinced that Taking a Crap is needed to enable the country to surmount the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century.

'What is wrong with tits and ass? What is suggestive about women in bikinis? Or men in bikinis? Will images of these people dement teens across the nation?' 'Will printing certain words cause children to degenerate? Will the mention of 'vagina' cause preteens to go out and look for virgins?'

Perhaps it's time to take the action from the mouths of Audience Number 2 to the bunghole that feeds them.

These examples serve to highlight that there is much work to be done.

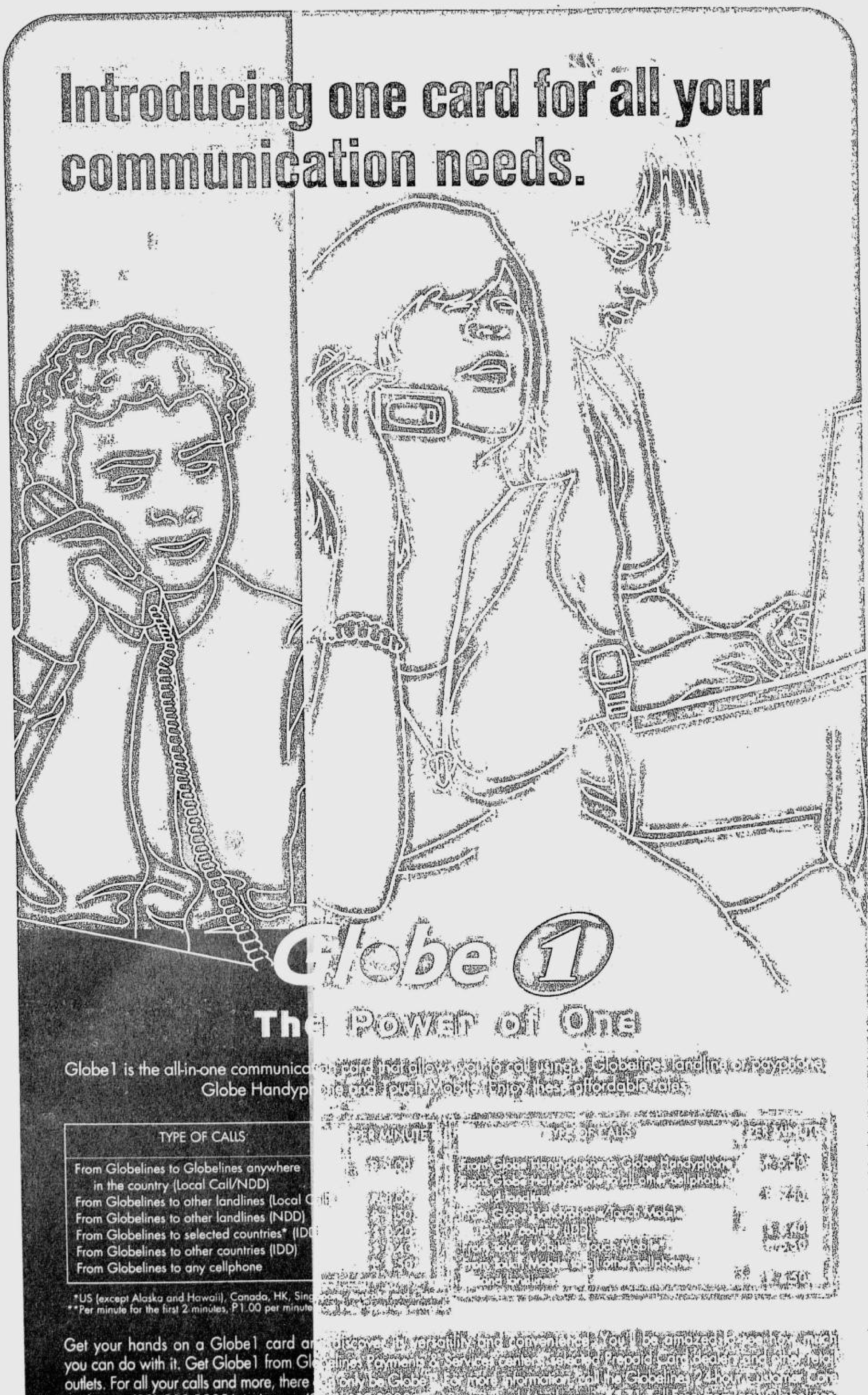
Now is not the time for divisiveness, and while there's no avoiding their searing comments, there can be a determined effort by all sides to limit the collateral damage of the loads of crap they will unleash on a society poised for take-off.

Let's call on the Lord. Let us ask Him for the grace to make us worthy of His healing our land. (This is Audience Number 2's cue to start e-mailing angrily, "Lord, *ba't n'yo ginamit ang* Lord?!" Lighten up—we're not even sure if He calls Himself "the Lord.")

Alam kong tayong lahat ay naghahangad ng isang makabuluhang pagbabago para sa ating bayan. Tayong lahat ay nagsisikap para matamo ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Kung kaya't ako'y nakikiusap na tulungan ninyo ako, tulungan nyo ako sa Project Take a Crap.

We may disagree among ourselves but let us never lose sight of that greater battle for one people, one country, one Super! audience.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.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24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

After-hour attractions

By Paolo R. Reyes and Janine Cuenca-Dario

THE WANTON weather conditions of the past few months often left us with a limited choice of after-hour agendas. Under the constant threat of a thunderstorm, we sought relief under the canopy of mall-based bars.

If you want to get away from the teeming crowds, muffled sounds, noisy banter, and the suffocating smell of smoke, look forward to August, a month that marks the auspicious return of al fresco feasts.

Our nightlife, even in the most tumultuous of times, never seems to lose its allure.

Despite the ebb and flow of our country's political fortunes over the past month, it's encouraging to see that the desire of Filipinos to explore the town after dark has not dampened. This is a welcome sign, indeed, that the scene is still stirring with a heady spell of nocturnal wanderlust. We hope you'll enjoy the coming week's cross-cultural attractions.

Strum n' Bass @ Capone's, 10:00 p.m.

Tonight, head over to Capone's [G/F Frasier Place, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati, phone: 816-4394] for Strum n' Bass and support the local indie music scene. Scheduled to perform are Salindiwa, Taggu nDios, NTOTN, and guests from the Ateneo Musician's Pool (AMP). On the second floor, enjoy the block-rockin' beats of DJs Mike Constantino of BBC, David Solis, and Switch of AMP as they reign over the turntables. The party starts promptly at 10:00 p.m.!

Beleza @ Viva Rodizio, 6:00 p.m.

You still have a chance to catch most of Beleza, a 3-day festival of Brazilian food, music, and motion on its second day. Tonight, catch the pagode, samba, bossa and beats of Batuque Brasil, and the gravity-defying martial artists from Escola

AFTER-HOUR/ E3

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1. AUG. 1 - 5 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P10,500.
Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly
NEXT SCHED : SEPT. 5 - 9
2. AUG. 6 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - MUFFINS - MUFFINS - P3,000.
Cinnamon - Crunch Sweet Potato, Onion & Shallots, Country Apple Sauce, Choco Chip, Carrot Nut, Banana Walnut Muffins.
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 10
3. AUG. 8 - 11 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - P10,500.
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 12 - 15
4. AUG. 10 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500.
Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin w/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilting.
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 14
5. AUG. 13 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P3,000.
Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 17
6. AUG. 15 - 19 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P12,500. (for whole courses)
P2,500 - AUG. 15 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,500 - AUG. 16 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,750 - AUG. 17 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread
P2,500 - AUG. 18 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart
P2,750 - AUG. 19 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 19 - 23
7. AUG. 15 - 19 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE - P4,500.
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling, b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium, c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes; e) Mask or Maskara - of your choice
*** COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS for appointment ***
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 19 - 23
8. AUG. 20 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P3,000.
Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies, Baking for Diabetics
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 24
9. AUG. 22 - 26 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500.
For whole courses or Learn to make 30 Kinds of special cakes from around the world.
Each cake has a different icing & decoration
NEXT SCHED: SEPT. 26 - 30
10. AUG. 27 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - TAPAS - P3,000.
Spanish Omelette, Fish Pastries, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Pescado frito, Albondigas, Ensalada de Pollo & Mallocan Pizza
NEXT SCHED: OCT. 1
11. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - EDIBLE GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P2,500.
BY APPOINTMENT

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"CAKE TOPS WITH PHILIPPINE FLAIR BOOK 2,"
"CAKE COLLECTION BOOK 3,"
"A GOLDEN CELEBRETION IN COLD PORCELAIN BOOK 4,"
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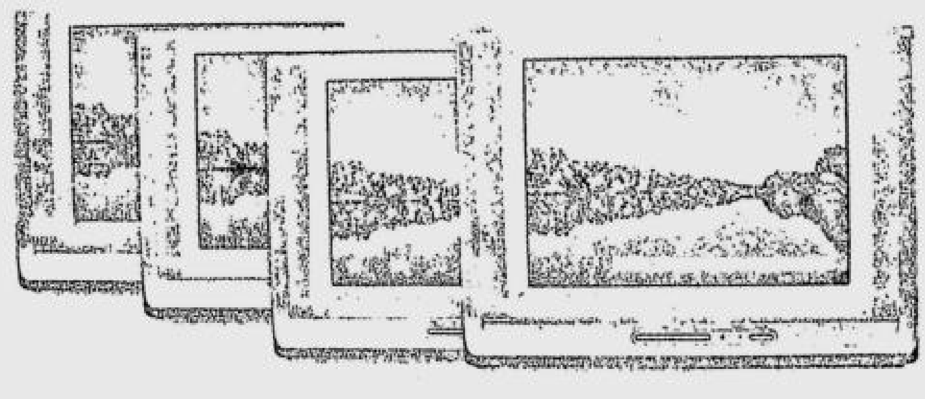

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every P500 purchase entitles you to join

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You've gotta lick it before I click it

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THERE are a lot of Filipino customs, I still have to learn but this one I figured out.

Whenever I am running through bars shooting people, a lot of them are sticking their tongues out to me. First, I thought they are mocking me but then a good friend of mine who is a Filipino explained to me that it is a sign of great respect. I was baffled and slightly ashamed. What did I do that I deserve all that respect?

It feels good though to be honored by such an ancient custom.

I don't know how I can show my thankfulness and repay my respect to all these beautiful people. Hey, I have an idea. Go to my website (http://www.dont-touch-my.com), look for the "Sticky Tongue Contest" banner and join the competition by sending in your best sticky tongue pictures. Everything is explained there.

The winner gets a hand signed "Aggressively Shy Stick Insect Hunter" T-shirt.

A STRONG contender for the grand prize

SORRY Macky, too crooked

PAT, what did you eat?

KAT HAS the tiniest tongue I have ever seen

GO FOR it, Xeng

LICKING on blue hair can give you indigestion

CHERIE Habayeb definitely falls into the cute tongue [illegible]

SOME tounges are larger

HE IS called Big John, not for his tongue obviously.

IS THAT lipstick on Nicolette's tongue?

After-hour attractions

From page E1

Brasileira de Capoeira. Tomorrow, witness Mon Maramba and Samba de Orfeu mingle guitars and riffs with electronic musings. While they turn on the heat with Latin House beats, quench your thirst with ice-cold cerveja, a classic caipirinha, and a myriad of shakes and sippers. Complete the sensual feast with feijão (basic rice and beans) to the churrasco á rodizio (buffet of barbecued meats). Restaurant opens at 11:00 a.m. while festivities start at 6:00 p.m. at Viva Rodizio, Wilson St. cor. P. Guevarra St., Greenhills, San Juan (phone 723-0873).

German Silent Film Festival, Aug. 4-25

Thursday, Aug. 4, is the opening of the German Silent Film Festival, which will screen the celebrated films of director Fritz Lang. The silent movies will be scored live by four outstanding musical acts. First in line is the 1927 science fiction masterpiece, Metropolis (Aug. 4; live music by Rubber Inc.), followed by Spies (Aug. 11; live music by The Sammy Asuncion Group), Dr. Mabuse the Gambler (Aug. 18; live music by Tots Tolentino and Buhay), and Destiny (Aug. 25; live music by Cynthia Alexander). Admission is free. 8:00 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 6. Call 722-4671 to 73.

Other 24/7 Super! events:

July 30, Saturday

Superfly Saturdays with Karl Ty at Maestro Lounge; Sugarfree, Twisted Halo, Happy Meals, & Cambio at Saguijo; Lynn Sherman at Wasabi; Steve Mills at Temple; Drip at Tower Records Alabang; DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur; Neon 8 & Batuque Brasil at Viva Rodizio; Cosmic Love, Dex de Rosa, Sino si Kat?, and Danger Sanchez at The Hole; Pinikpikan at '70s Bistro; Dip N' Drop at V Bar; Dance Deluxe at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Lush with DJs Patch & Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Meat Packin' Saturdays at Government; Wiseguys & Ntwine at Suburbia; Authority & Tribe of Levi at Ratsky's Morato; U Turn at Bagaberde

July 31, Sunday

Mon Maramba & Samba de Orfeu at Viva Rodizio; couchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; ArtConneXions at Art Pavilion; Butch Baluyut Retrospective at CCP Main Gallery; Swerve at Ratsky's Morato

Aug. 1, Monday

Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba at Absinth; Bridge & Stonefree at '70s Bistro; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Acoustic Soul with Release at Temple; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; couchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Behind Closed Doors at Conway's; Nelson Caruncho at Dish

Aug. 2, Tuesday

Sound at '70s Bistro; Willy Wanakah's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Ebony Grooves at V Bar; Tropikasya at Strumm's; Chickitas at Chef and Brewer; Velvet Party at Absinth

Aug. 3, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze, Greenbelt 2; Bellini Night with Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo-at Embassy Cuisine; Superklasse with Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; House of Rock at Halo; Essential Grooves with James Mcranie at Future@Halo; Wednesday Jazz Festival at Merk's; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Dimsum at Conway's

Aug. 4, Thursday

Nova Quartet at Wasabi; Asin at '70s Bistro; Phuture Thursdays at Bed; Chocolate Milk at Government; couchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Spirit of '67 at Conway's

Aug. 5, Friday

Brass Munkeys at Wasabi; HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze, Greenbelt 2; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's, The Fort; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; BBC's Future Lounge with Mike Constantino at Future@Halo; Once on This Island at Carlos Romulo Theater; Men and Women at CCP Main Theater; Musik at Embassy Club; couchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Anghellic at Halo; Gorgeous: 80s Music at Absinth; Soulful Fridays with Steve Mills at V Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Fierce Fridays at Government; Fantastic Friday at Prince of Jaipur; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Replay & Ntwine at Conway's; Acoustic Jive at Quisine

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. E-mail your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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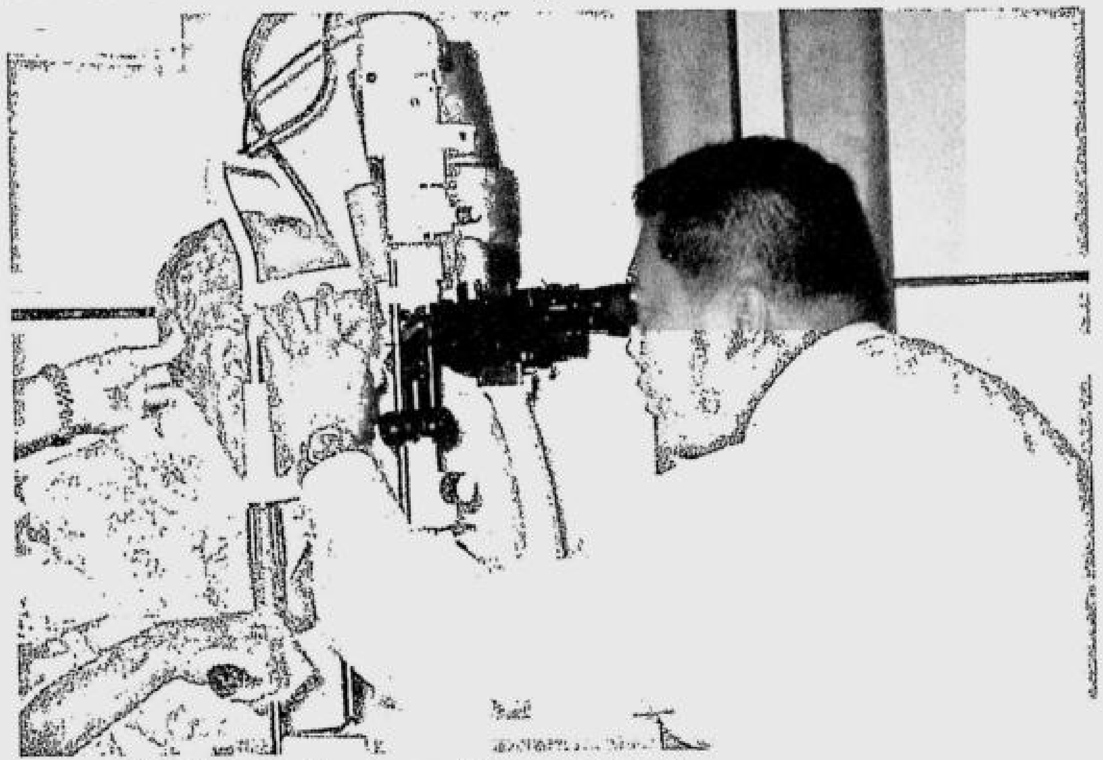

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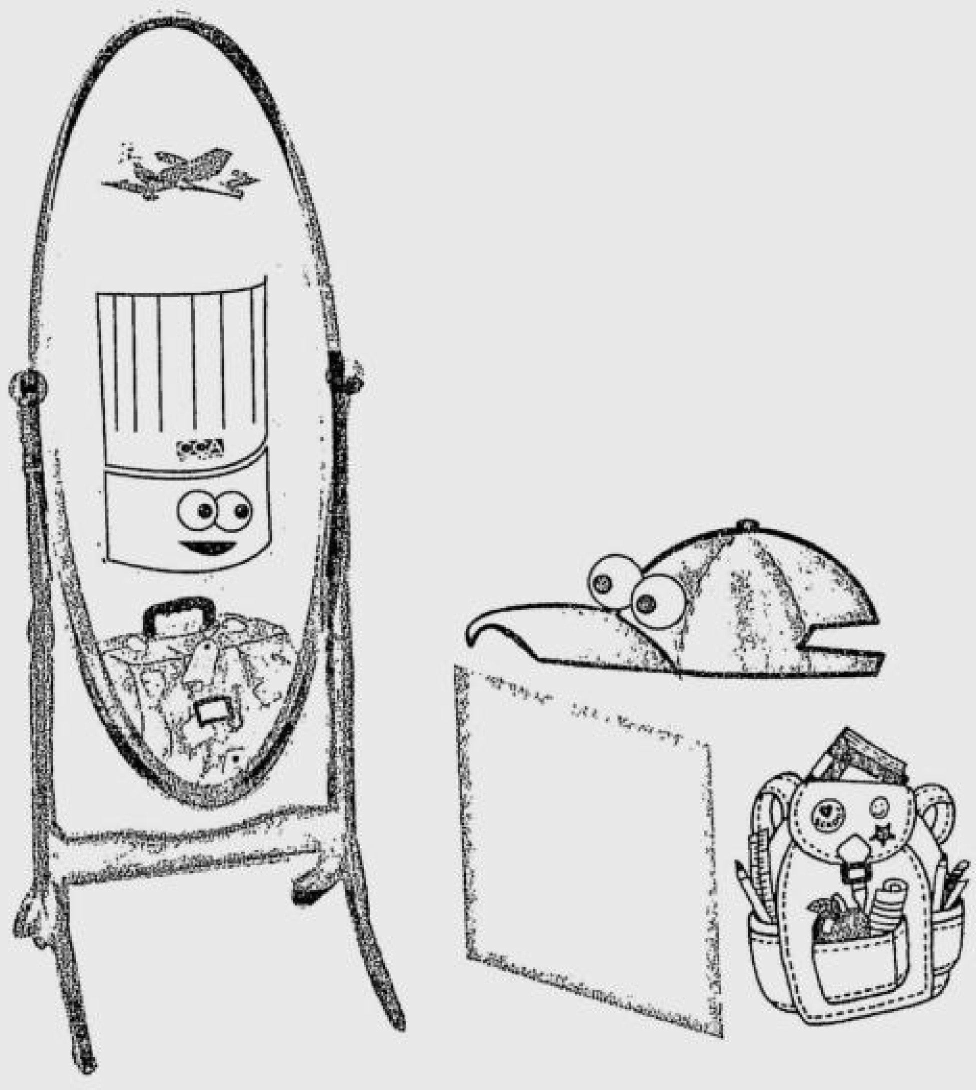

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Text and photos by David Milan
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ALL WATCHES FROM FOSSIL. STORES LOCATED AT GLORIETTA 4, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FESTIVAL MALL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA AND SM NORTH

Jethro Albert

The thing about me and my watch is that: We're priceless!
I'm always on time when it comes to: My family
My unforgettable experience when I got late was: When I had a friend wait for me while I was having a nice dinner with a girl… He sure got furious!
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: Mom
Email me at: jethro_albert@yahoo.com

Elaine Lua

The thing about me and my watch is that: We both know what really counts in life.
I'm always on time when it comes to: Going to church, eating and watching my fat TV programs
My unforgettable experience when I got late was: Can't really recall, all of them are forgettable.
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: FOOD!
Email me at: ely_lu333@yahoo.com

Regie Jukes

The thing about me and my watch is that: We both have unique and spunk in terms of style.
I'm always on time when it comes to: Being there for my family and friends when they need me.
Email me at: regie_jukes@yahoo.com

Kisses Salvacruz

The thing about me and my watch is that: We're similarly crazy and fun to be with!
I'm always on time when it comes to: Being there for my friends.
My unforgettable experience when I got late was: When I bumped a parked jeepney on my way to my Physics class.
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: designated driver… or pilot? ;-)
Email me at: k_i_s_z@hotmail.com

Din Gamallo

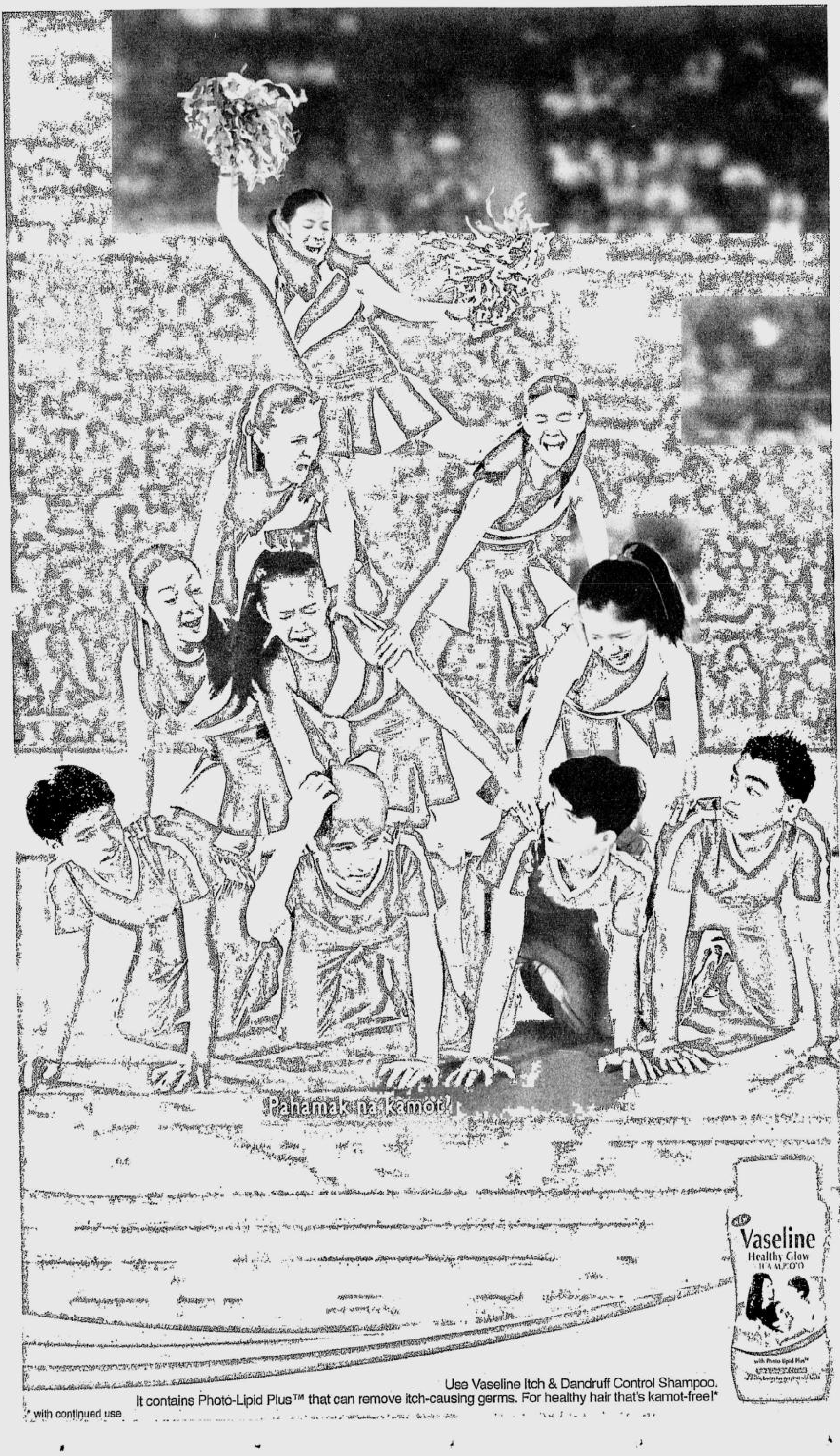
The thing about me and my watch is that: We're classy, sophisticated and very reliable.
I'm always on time when it comes to: My friends needing my help.
My unforgettable experience when I got late was: I missed a flight and everyone was giving me the "evil" look
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: driver back in Cebu
Email me at: din_gamallo@yahoo.com

Kady Robles

The thing about me and my watch is that: When it comes to style… we're both simple and flexible, just the right package… You don't have to try hard to fit in, you just gloat.
I'm always on time: to strike a pose every time I see a camera!
My unforgettable experience when I got late was: When I missed an important test and broke up with my boyfriend (I blamed him because he didn't wake up!)
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: cutie-patootie boyfriend
Email me at: kiday_4@yahoo.com

Jessica Nieva

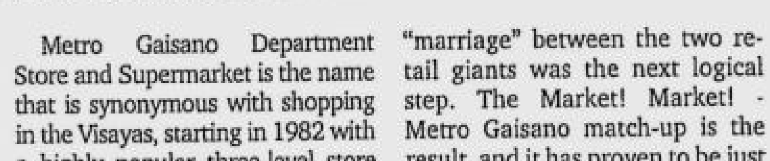
The thing about me and my watch is that: We hang on to whoever needs us.
I'm always on time when it comes to: Meeting my curfew (most of the time).
The first thing that comes to my mind when you say late is my: Ehem, boyfriend.
Email me at: jessicaleenieva@trisys.com



Use Vaseline Itch & Dandruff Control Shampoo.
It contains Photo-Lipid Plus™ that can remove itch-causing germs. For healthy hair that's kamot-free!*
* with continued use

Great buys in Metro Gaisano at the Market! Market!

What happens when two giants meet? A shopping paradise is born; and shopaholics, smart buyers, and bargain hunters everywhere get their best reason yet to celebrate! This is precisely the magic combination that is attracting unending crowds of people to visit Bonifacio Global City's Market! Market! and its partner department store and supermarket Metro Gaisano. Everyday, shoppers are discovering the practical delights of being in an enormous, modern, and comfortable mall complex that has everything from fashion to furniture, fruits to flowers, technology to handicrafts, boutiques, a hawker's haven, as well as a wet market, and the best food and entertainment. With Metro Gaisano's department store and supermarket adding its weight to the mix, then almost everything one could ever want or need is covered, and all at the friendliest prices. That's how Metro Gaisano and Market! Market! have earned their place as a bonafide shopping paradise.



GROCERY shopping with gal pal Kris Aquino and Homey Boy Abunda at the Supermarket of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

Metro Gaisano Department Store and Supermarket is the name that is synonymous with shopping in the Visayas, starting in 1982 with a highly popular three-level store located at Colon Street in the heart of downtown Cebu City. The mid-90's saw the start of continuous expansion, with more branches sprouting in Mandaue, Ayala Center Cebu, Legazpi, and Lucena over the next decade. Finally a foray into Metro Manila was made with the sixth and the largest Metro Gaisano establishment yet placed at Market! Market! in Taguig. This branch is also the most ambitious, with design cues provided by the number one design group based in North America. Materials, elements and concepts, as well as the store's visuals and merchandise mix are definitely world-class, while the well-loved Metro Gaisano price value is still maintained. From Store Number 1 to Store Number 6, the vision has remained the same: quality and variety of merchandise in a friendly atmosphere and at prices that are highly competitive and reasonable.

These lofty thoughts behind Metro Gaisano's success matched incredibly well with Ayala Land's cutting-edge innovations, and a "marriage" between the two retail giants was the next logical step. The Market! Market! - Metro Gaisano match-up is the result, and it has proven to be just what this country of value-smart shoppers needed. Visit Market! Market! and Metro Gaisano and see for yourself what the magic is about, and experience shopping paradise!

Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! Department Store is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. While the Metro Gaisano Supermarket is open Monday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal, open space parking, new parking building, and basement parking in Metro Gaisano Supermarket are also available for your convenience.

Whether your shopping list consists of supermarket necessities or department store needs, or any other item your heart may desire, Metro Gaisano Market! Market! will be more than happy to accommodate.

DIRECTORY

supermarket
LEVEL B
- pharmacy
- suisse cottage
- food avenue
- photoshop
- foreign exchange
- customer service

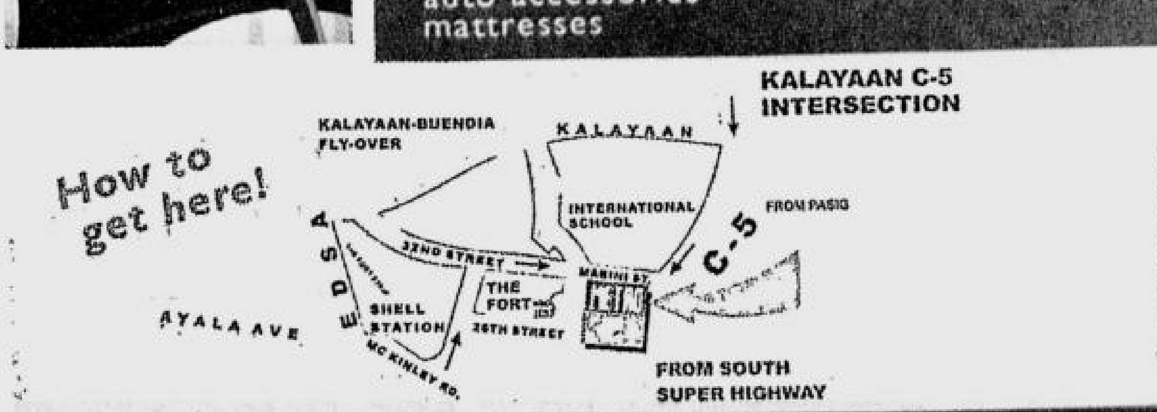
mens
LEVEL 1
- menswear
- mens accessories
- mens activewear
- cosmetics
- fragrances
- jewelry
- mens denim
- optical
- seasonal
- mens underwear
- mens shoes
- mens sportswear

women
LEVEL 2
- ladies apparel
- ladies accessories
- ladies shoes
- ladies denim
- intimates
- ladies swimwear
- ladies sportswear
- maternity
- petites
- ladies sleepwear

kids
LEVEL 3
- teen wear
- boys wear
- girls wear
- infants/toddlers
- shoes
- underwear
- accessories
- toys
- stationery
- kids furniture

home
LEVEL 4
- housewares
- cookware
- fabrics
- luggage
- sewing machines
- linens
- bath
- framed art
- picture frames
- flowers

furniture
LEVEL 5
- appliances
- music
- exercise equipment
- auto accessories
- mattresses
- tools
- lighting
- home electronics



METRO
MARKET! MARKET!

STORE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
Supermarket (10am - 9pm) Department Store (11am - 9pm)

FRIDAY - SUNDAY
Department Store & Supermarket (10am - 9pm)

CHARM attack! Chandelier earrings and charm necklaces are certainly the 'in' thing now. But here at the Jewelry Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! these trinkets are specially surrounded and made of Swarovski crystals making you shine and glitter above the rest!

CLASSIC and elegant. These two words go hand in hand when pearls are talked about. What more South Sea Pearls? This fabulous find at the Jewelry Department Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! will surely add class and sophistication to your usual do.

WISPY whispers! This beautiful white gold and golden necklace only at the Jewelry Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! will do wonders for that simple but classic look.

THIS woven necklace intertwined with white and yellow gold only at the Jewelry Department Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! Wear it around your neck and get that ultra sexy look!

Sparkle and shine at Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

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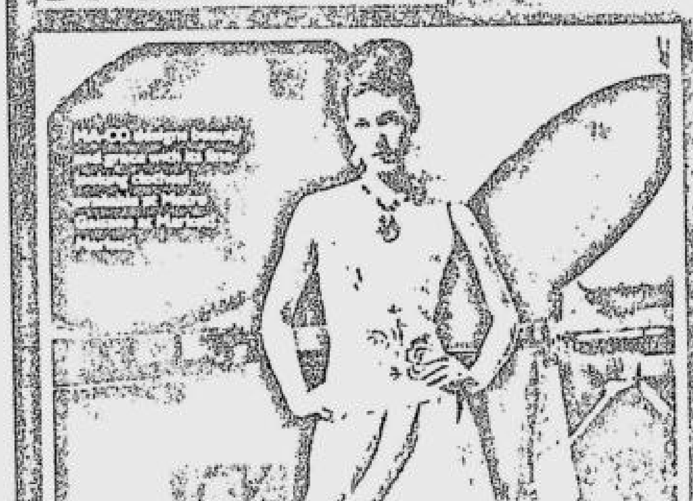

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SPORTING that casual chic look, in a Protacio outfit available at the Mens' Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

ELEGANCE and style come together with Filippo available at the Ladies' Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

[illegible]

Southern Style

Cebu designers take centerstage at Metro Gaisano

The Cebuano brand of shopping excellence has come to Manila through Metro Gaisano's sixth and largest branch situated at Market! Market! in the Bonifacio Global City. And they come in style!

[illegible]

[illegible]

ON FEMALE model: Office or gimmick! With clothes by Arcy A. Gayatin and MA-CO available at the Ladies' Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! you can do both! On male model: Filippo, for the man on the go! Jazz it up with a pair of Blue Camp pants, and you're all set! Available at the Men's Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

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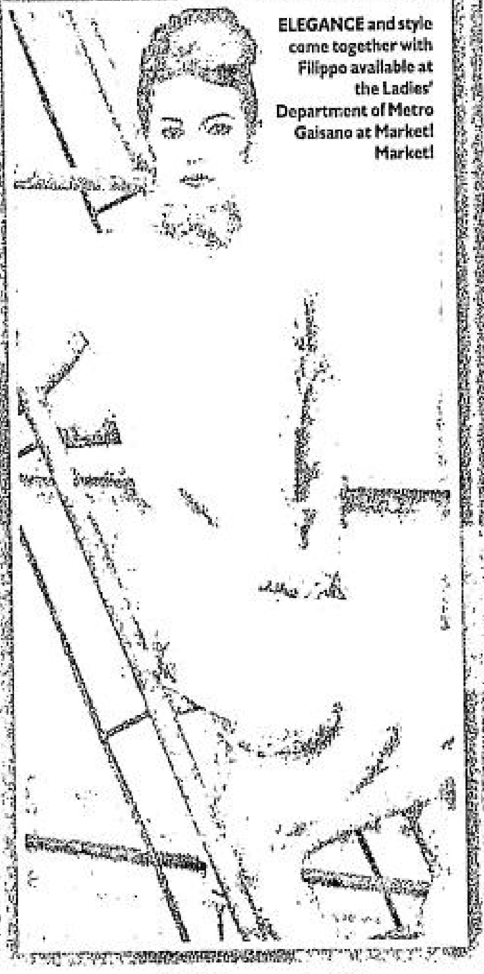

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[illegible]

ON FEMALE model: Office or gimmick? With clothes by Arcy A. Gayatin and MA-CO available at the Ladies' Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! you can do both! On male model: Filippo, for the man on the go! Jazz it up with a pair of Blue Camp pants, and you're all set! Available at the Men's Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

At Home with Boy and Kris at Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

WHAT'S the latest buzz on shopping? Great buys at Metro Gaisano Market! Market!, of course. And Buzz hosts and television royalty Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda couldn't agree more.

The hard-hitting and highly intriguing showbiz talk-show duo are self-confessed shopaholics - always putting a premium though on quality and value for money. Yes, these ultra famous bargain hunters are bargain-hunters, too!

Whether it for style or for necessity; the two television icons are at home where great buys can be found. At Metro Gaisano Market! Market!, Kris and Boy were spotted shopping with enthusiasm. Making a beeline for the kitchen section, she makes an inventory of the things she needs at home: big drinking glasses, baking dishes, a pressure cooker… "I rarely get the time to shop that's why when I get the chance, I make sure to buy everything we need at home," she shares, checking out the kitchen appliances that catch her eye.

Kris easily fills her shopping cart with her picks of kitchenware, enjoying the great selection of items that Metro Gaisano has to offer. "It's so fun and easy to shop here," she remarks while checking her home items of choice at the counter. "Everything is really organized!"

KRIS Aquino sits at a patio chair found at Metro Gaisano's Home Department after a shopping marathon.

At the supermarket, Kris also had a great time finding her picks of groceries and food items: bags of Lay's chips ("Favorite namin ni Josh!"), packs of coffee blends (her latest caffeine fix favorite), jars of Newman's Own sauces ("These are so sarap!") and a variety of other snack foods and drinks that she likes. Despite the crowds of fans trailing her from aisle to aisle, Kris remains unfazed as she had fun finding her grocery favorites at the Metro Gaisano Supermarket. She remarks. "I have to say, the supermarket is just beautiful. There are so many things you can buy here! Para talagang nasa abroad ako."

After her afternoon of shopping, Kris walks out of the department store, happy with her great buys. Finding her picks, all at affordable prices, she confirms the great shopping experience that can only be found at her favorite department store: "The rumors are true! You can discover great buys here at Metro Gaisano."

Boy declares, "Everything is in here!" Heading straight to the store's extensive kitchen section to look for baking dishes and other kitchen ware, he shares how at home he feels while shopping at Metro Gaisano. "I just built my house recently and everything that I was allowed to put inside there by the interior designer was bought here. From the knives to the pans to the appliances…everything."

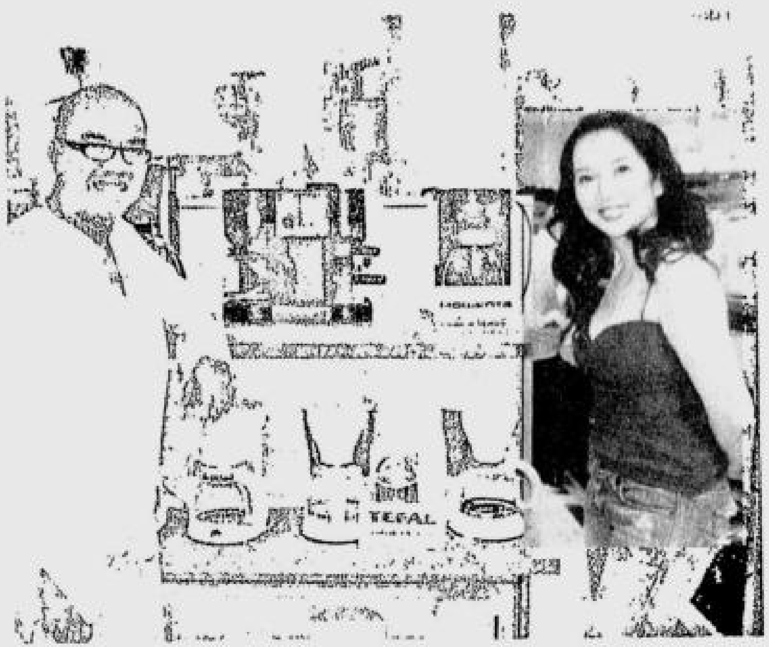
At the home section, Boy tries out a bed and settles onto it comfortably. "I like this one," he says. With so many items catching his eye, from the beaded picture frames to the flower décor, he exclaims, "I don't know what to pick!" Finally settling for more kitchen items, Boy loads his shopping cart with his great finds: a blender, an airpot, a turbo broiler and a five-pc. set of Pyrex bakeware. "The prices are extremely affordable," he says. "Everyone can really get a lot of items because the prices are so reasonable. It's really value for the shopper's money."

His next stop is the Supermarket. "The Metro Gaisano Supermarket is simply the best. Everything can be found here plus, everything is easy to find." From aisle to aisle, Boy easily picks out his favorite food items, from the locally branded crackers and ginger brew to imported brands of peanut butter, coffee, salad dressing and seasoning. "Shopping here is really convenient. Especially for someone like me who doesn't have much time to shop, I really appreciate how organized the store is. It's not like other supermarkets that look and feel like a maze. It is really customer-friendly."

As he checks out his purchases for the day, Boy affirms, "The rumors are true. You can find everything and discover great buys here at Metro Gaisano."

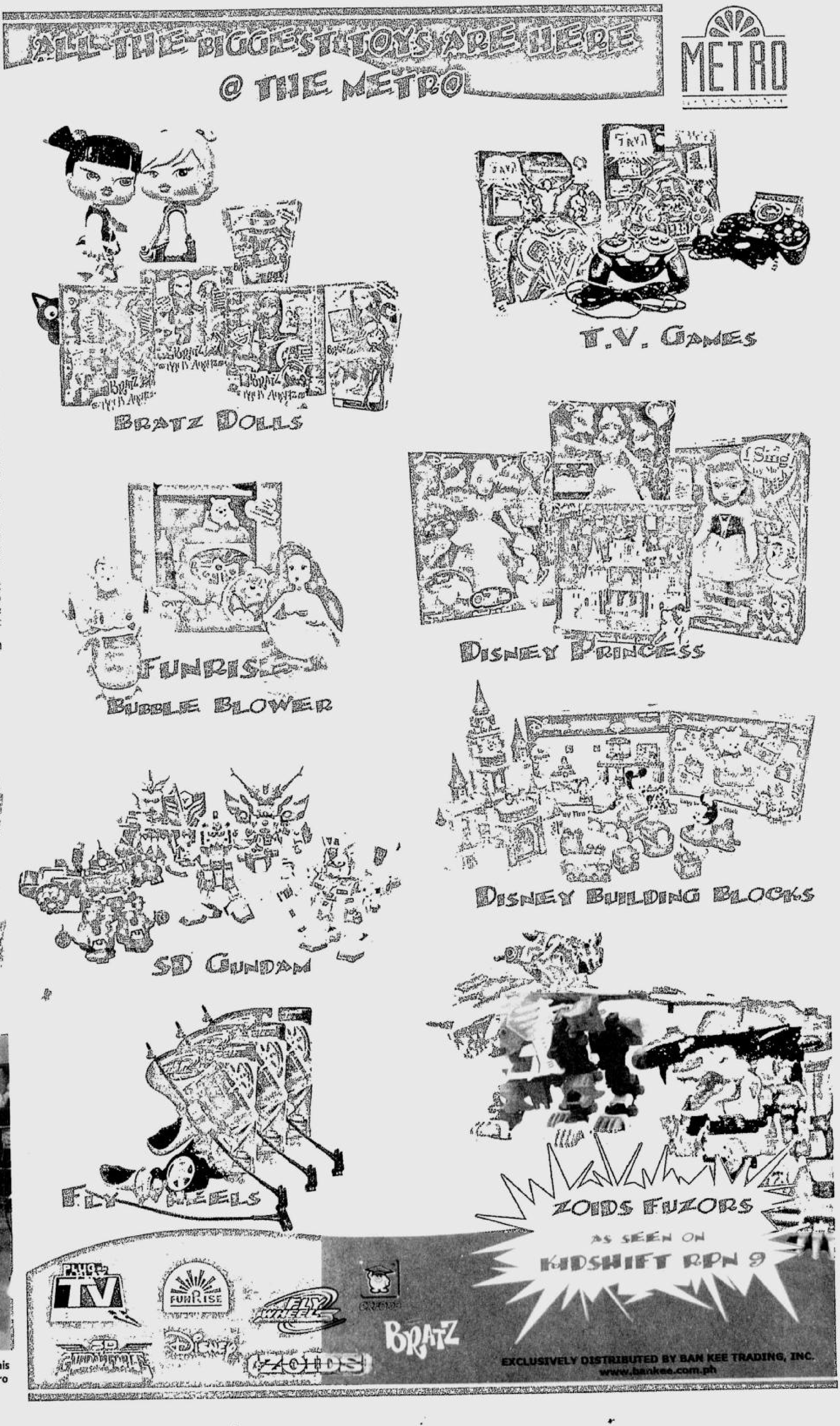
THE METRO Gaisano at Market! Market offers a variety of freshly baked goodies at the Suisse Cottage at the Supermarket.

KRIS Aquino is thinking if she should get this bright yellow bar stool she spotted at Metro Gaisano's Home Department.

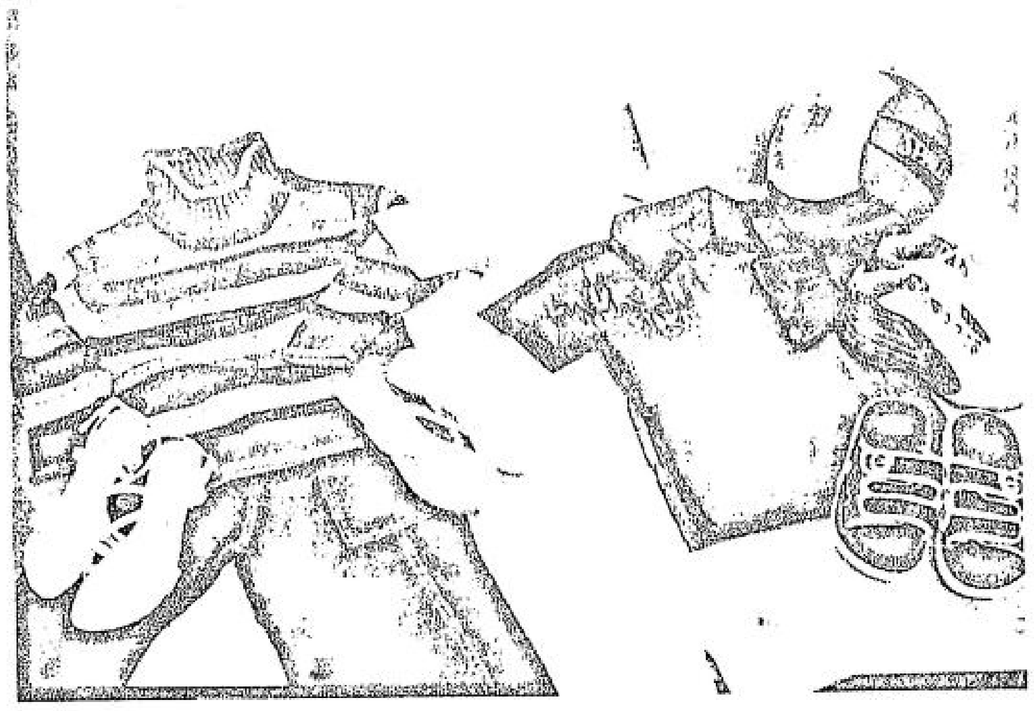


NEW kitchen helps Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino found at the Home Department Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

A NEW bed maybe… for Boy Abunda. Available at the Home Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!



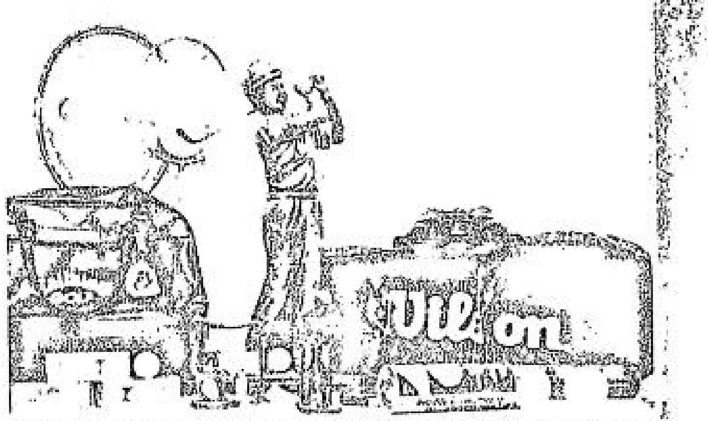
Seek and you shall find at Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!



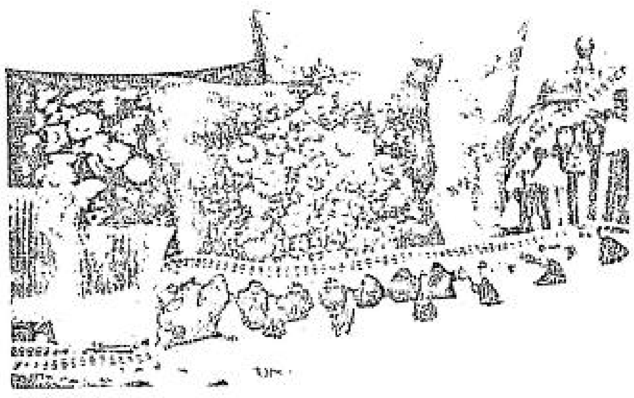
Kids Treat

WONDERFUL finds for your little ones only here at the Children's Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

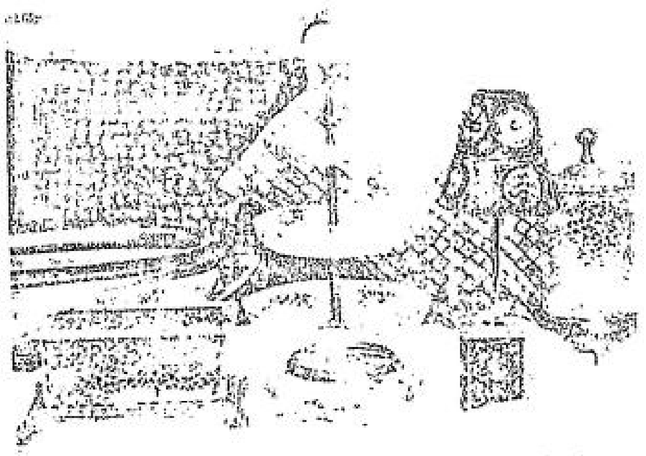
Sports Buff



IT'S RAINING... gear for men! It's a man's world only here at the Sports and Hobby Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!



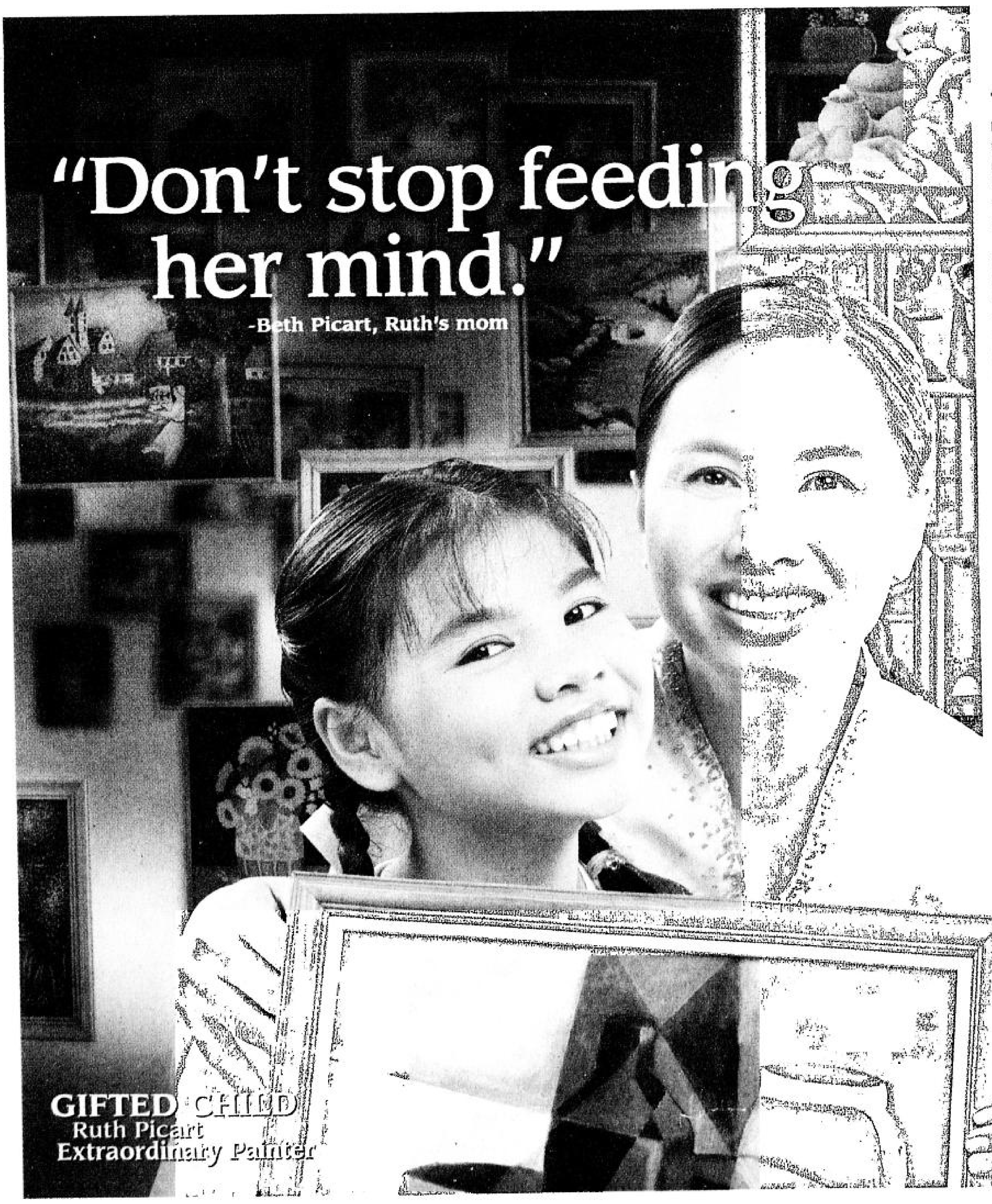
INTRICATELY woven throw pillows and eye-catching vases and urns fit for any home only at the Home Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!



AT THE Home Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market! these rare and exotic accent pieces are common finds!

IMPORTED fabrics made of high quality materials for sale at the Home Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!

UNIQUE figurines and layers and layers of beautiful tapestry only at the Home Department of Metro Gaisano at Market! Market!



Wyeth

Twelve-year old Ruth has had 14 art exhibits. Her mind is a well of creative ideas that never fails to produce impressive art. Ruth's mother, Beth, recalls the request of famous local artist, Mr. Fernando Sena, to collect her daughter's works for Ruth's first solo art exhibit. "Nagulat ako! She was only 11 then!"

Beth shares the secret to her daughter's amazing achievements. "Right exposure and the family's support are vital. Guide her in exploring her talent." As soon as she noticed her child's inclination toward the visual arts, Beth enrolled Ruth in painting classes, provided her with materials, and remained a constant source of encouragement and praise. "Always nourish her mind", she stresses. "Provide her with the best nutrition. At ituluy-tuloy mo lang ang pagsuporta."

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